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WOOD®

OCTOBER 2003 ISSUE 151

The Shop-Proven Woodworking Magazine

28-PAGE SECTION

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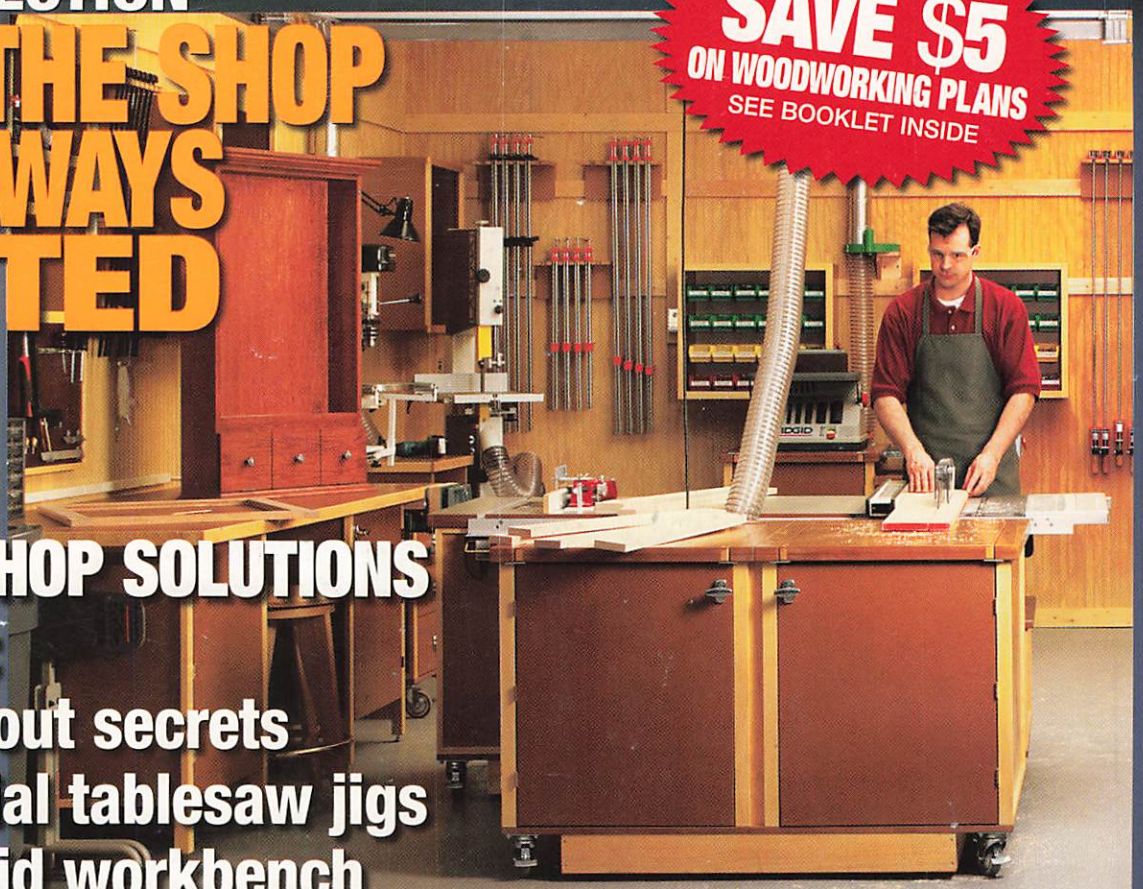

42 SHOP SOLUTIONS

Including:

- Shop layout secrets
- 4 essential tablesaw jigs
- Rock-solid workbench
- 6 must-have router bits
- Cabinet plans for every need

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TOOL TEST

3-HP BAD TABLESA

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2 HP DUST COLLECTOR

- MOTOR SIZE: 2 HP, 220V, SINGLE-PHASE
- PORTABLE BASE SIZE: 21½" x 33½"
- STATIC PRESSURE: 12.3"
- AIR SUCTION CAPACITY: 1550 CFM
- STANDARD BAG FILTRATION: 30 MICRON
- MOTOR AMP DRAW: 12 AMPS (220V ONLY)
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 130 LBS.

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS — POPULAR WOODWORKING TOOL BUYING GUIDE Editors' Choice

G1029 REG. ~~$249.00~~

SALE $239.95

1½ HP SHAPER

- MOTOR: HEAVY-DUTY 1½ HP, 110/220V
- 2 INTERCHANGEABLE SPINDLES: ½" AND ¾"
- TWO SPINDLE SPEEDS: 7,000 AND 10,000 RPM

- SPINDLE TRAVEL: 3"
- SPINDLE OPENINGS: 1¼", 3½", AND 5"
- TABLE SIZE: 20¼" x 18"
- FLOOR-TO-TABLE HEIGHT: 33½"
- MAX. CUTTER DIAMETER: 5"
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 220 LBS.

G1035

REG. ~~$425.00~~

SALE $395.00

(SHOWN WITH OPTIONAL WING)

3 HP SHAPER

- HEAVY-DUTY 3 HP, SINGLE-PHASE, 220V MOTOR W/REVERSING SWITCH
- 3 INTERCHANGEABLE SPINDLES: ½", ¾" AND 1"
- TWO SPINDLE SPEEDS: 7,000 AND 10,000 RPM

- 3" SPINDLE TRAVEL
- SPINDLE OPENINGS: 1⅜", 2¾", 4", AND 5½"
- PRECISION GROUND CAST IRON TABLE
- TABLE SIZE WITH STANDARD WING ATTACHED: 30½" x 28¼"
- FLOOR-TO-TABLE HEIGHT: 34"
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 353 LBS.

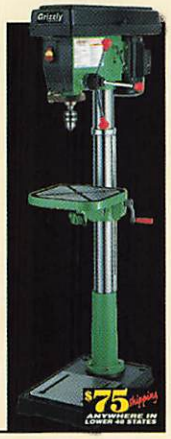
G1026

REG. ~~$825.00~~

SALE $775.00

12 SPEED 17" FLOOR DRILL PRESS

- MOTOR: 1 HP, SINGLE-PHASE, 110V/220V
- PRECISION GROUND CAST IRON TABLE
- TABLE SIZE: 13⅝" SQUARE
- TABLE TILTS 90° IN BOTH DIRECTIONS
- SPINDLE TAPER: MT#3
- SPINDLE TRAVEL: 4¾"
- SWING: 17"
- DRILL CHUCK: ⅝"
- 12 SPEEDS: 210 - 3300 RPM
- DRILLING CAPACITY: 1" STEEL
- INCLUDES BUILT-IN LIGHT
- OVERALL HEIGHT: 64½"
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 275 LBS.



G7947

ONLY $375.00

10" HEAVY-DUTY TABLE SAW

- 1½ HP, SINGLE-PHASE, 110/220V MOTOR
- PRECISION GROUND CAST IRON TABLE
- TABLE SIZE (W/ WINGS ATTACHED): 27⅛" x 40⅝"
- CUTTING CAPACITY : 3⅛" @ 90°, 2⅛" @ 45°
- ⅝" x 1¼" ARBOR ACCEPTS DADO BLADES
- FRONT & REAR QUICK-LOCK FENCE IS MICRO-ADJUSTABLE
- MAXIMUM RIPPING CAPACITY: 24"
- APPROXIMATE SHIPPING WEIGHT: 220 LBS.

Popular Woodworking TOOL BUYING GUIDE Editor's Choice

G1022SM

REG. ~~$325.00~~

SALE $310.00

10" LEFT-TILTING SUPER HEAVY-DUTY TABLE SAW

- MOTOR: 3 HP, SINGLE-PHASE, 220V
- PRECISION GROUND CAST IRON TABLE
- TABLE SIZE (W/ WINGS ATTACHED): 40⅛" x 27"
- EXTRA-LARGE HANDWHEELS
- CUTTING CAPACITY: 8" L & 26" R OF BLADE
- MAXIMUM DEPTH OF CUT @ 90°: 3"
- MAXIMUM DEPTH OF CUT @ 45°: 2⅛"
- ⅝" DIAMETER ARBOR ACCEPTS DADO BLADES UP TO 13/16"
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 467 LBS.

MOTOR COVER & DUST HOOD INCLUDED

G1023SL

REG. ~~$895.00~~

SALE $875.00

THE ULTIMATE 14" BANDSAW

New!

- MOTOR: 1 HP, TEFC, 110V / 220V SINGLE-PHASE
- PRECISION GROUND CAST IRON TABLE: 14" x 14"
- 2 SPEEDS: 1500 & 3200 FPM

- CUTTING CAPACITY/THROAT: 13½"
- MAXIMUM CUTTING HEIGHT: 6"
- QUICK CHANGE BLADE RELEASE/TENSIONING
- TABLE TILT: 45° RIGHT, 10° LEFT
- FENCE: DELUXE EXTRUDED ALUMINUM
- FULLY BALANCED CAST ALUMINUM WHEELS WITH RUBBER TIRES
- BLADE SIZE: 92½" (¼" TO ¾" WIDE)
- BALL BEARING BLADE GUIDES
- 4" DUST PORT
- INCLUDES ONE ⅜" BLADE
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 210 LBS.

G0555 INTRODUCTORY PRICE

ONLY $375.00

17" HEAVY-DUTY BANDSAW

New!

- MOTOR: 2 HP, SINGLE-PHASE, 110V/220V, TEFC
- PRECISION GROUND CAST IRON TABLE: 17" SQUARE

- CUTTING HEIGHT: 12"
- CUTTING CAPACITY LEFT OF BLADE: 16¼"
- FULLY-BALANCED CAST ALUMINUM WHEELS WITH RUBBER TIRES
- DELUXE EXTRUDED ALUMINUM RIP FENCE
- BLADE SIZE: 132" x ⅛" - 1" (STANDARD ½")
- 2 SPEEDS: 1600, 3300 FPM
- 4" DUST PORT x 2
- TABLE TILT 10° LEFT, 45° RIGHT
- QUICK CHANGE BLADE RELEASE/TENSIONING
- HEIGHT FROM FLOOR TO TABLE: 37½"
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 321 LBS.

G0513 INTRODUCTORY PRICE

ONLY $750.00

19" HEAVY-DUTY BANDSAW

New!

- MOTOR: 2 HP, SINGLE-PHASE, 60 HZ, 110V/220V, TEFC

- PRECISION GROUND CAST IRON TABLE: 19" x 19" x 1½" THICK
- CUTTING CAPACITY LEFT OF BLADE: 18¼"
- CUTTING CAPACITY HEIGHT: 12"
- 2 SPEEDS: 1700, 3600 FPM
- BLADE SIZE: 143" x ⅛" - 1¼"
- QUICK CHANGE BLADE RELEASE/TENSIONING
- WHEELS ARE FULLY-BALANCED CAST ALUMINUM WITH POLYURETHANE TIRES
- DELUXE EXTRUDED ALUMINUM RIP FENCE
- BLADE GUIDES: ROLLER DISC
- BLADE TENSION INDICATOR
- MICRO ADJUSTING GEAR TABLE
- 4" DUST PORT x 2
- TABLE TILT 10° LEFT, 45° RIGHT
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 383 LBS.

G0514 REG. ~~$950.00~~

SALE $895.00

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6" X 47" JOINTER WITH HANDWHEELS

- 1 HP, 110/220V, SINGLE-PHASE MOTOR
- 6" x 47" PRECISION GROUND CAST IRON TABLE
- RABBETING CAPACITY: ½"
- MAX. DEPTH OF CUT: ½"
- 3-KNIFE BALL BEARING CUTTERHEAD
- SUPER HEAVY-DUTY, CENTER MOUNTED FENCE IS 4" x 29¼"
- INFEED & OUTFEED TABLES HAVE HANDWHEELS FOR CONVENIENT TABLE HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT
- POWDER COATED PAINT
- STEEL STAND HAS BUILT-IN CHIP CHUTE
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 215 LBS.

FREE PAIR OF SAFETY PUSH BLOCKS

G1182HW

REG. ~~$325.00~~

SALE $305.00

$55 shipping ANYWHERE IN LOWER 48 STATES

8" X 65" SUPER HEAVY-DUTY JOINTER WITH HANDWHEELS

- 1½ HP, 220V, SINGLE-PHASE MOTOR
- SUPER HEAVY-DUTY PRECISION GROUND CAST IRON BED
- 3-KNIFE CUTTERHEAD IS 3" IN DIA. AND RUNS IN SHIELDED, PRE-LUBRICATED BALL BEARINGS
- MAX. DEPTH OF CUT: ½"
- INFEED TABLE HAS RABBETING LEDGE
- HEAVY-DUTY CENTER-MOUNTED FENCE
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 450 LBS.

FREE PAIR OF SAFETY PUSH BLOCKS

G1018HW

REG. ~~$695.00~~

SALE $675.00

$75 shipping ANYWHERE IN LOWER 48 STATES

8" X 75" JOINTER WITH 4 BLADE CUTTERHEAD

New!

- 2 HP, 110V/220V, SINGLE-PHASE MOTOR
- 8" x 75" PRECISION GROUND CAST IRON TABLE
- 3" DIAMETER CUTTERHEAD RUNS IN SHIELDED, PRE-LUBRICATED BALL BEARINGS
- MAGNETIC SWITCH WITH THERMAL OVERLOAD PROTECTOR
- 4-HSS CUTTERHEAD KNIVES ARE 8" x ⅛" x 1"
- MAX. DEPTH OF CUT: ½"
- CUTTERHEAD SPEED: 5500 RPM
- CUTS PER MINUTE: 22,000
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 461 LBS.

G0500

INTRODUCTORY PRICE

ONLY $795.00

$75 shipping ANYWHERE IN LOWER 48 STATES

12½" PORTABLE PLANER

- 2 HP, SINGLE-PHASE, 110V MOTOR
- MAX. CUTTING WIDTH: 12½"
- MAX. CUTTING DEPTH: 1/16"
- 2 HSS KNIVES
- FEED RATE: 25 FPM
- ON/OFF TOGGLE SWITCH
- MAX. CUTTING HEIGHT: 6"
- MIN. BOARD THICKNESS: 3/16"
- CUTTERHEAD SPEED: 8,540 RPM
- 57 CUTS PER INCH
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 85 LBS.

G8794

ONLY $299.95

$35 shipping ANYWHERE IN LOWER 48 STATES

15" PLANER

- 2 HP, 220V, SINGLE-PHASE MOTOR
- PRECISION GROUND CAST IRON BED
- CUTTERHEAD SPEED: 5000 RPM
- RATE OF FEED: 16 FPM & 20 FPM
- MAX. CUTTING WIDTH: 14⅞"
- MAX. CUTTING HEIGHT: 6⅛"
- MAX. CUTTING DEPTH: ⅛"
- NUMBER OF KNIVES: 3 HSS
- ALL BALL BEARING CONSTRUCTION
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 440 LBS.

INCLUDES STAND!

G1021

REG. ~~$795.00~~

SALE $725.00

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20" PLANER

- 3 HP, 220V, SINGLE-PHASE MOTOR
- 25¾" x 20" PRECISION GROUND CAST IRON TABLE
- CUTTERHEAD SPEED: 4833 RPM
- RATE OF FEED: 16 FPM & 20 FPM
- MAX. CUTTING WIDTH: 20"
- MAX. CUTTING HEIGHT: 8⅝"
- MAX. CUTTING DEPTH: ⅛"
- NUMBER OF KNIVES: 4 HSS
- DUST EXHAUST HOOD HAS 5" DUST PORT
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 785 LBS.

4 BLADE CUTTERHEAD!

G1033

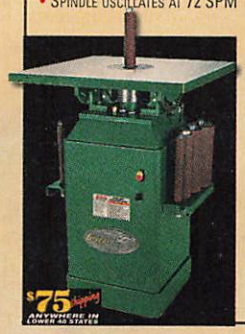
REG. ~~$1295.00~~

SALE $1195.00

$150 shipping ANYWHERE IN LOWER 48 STATES

OSCILLATING SPINDLE SANDER

- 1 HP, SINGLE-PHASE, 110/220V, TEFC MOTOR
- PRECISION GROUND CAST IRON 25" X 25" TABLE TILTS TO 45°
- STROKE LENGTH: 1½"
- FLOOR-TO-TABLE HEIGHT: 35½"
- SPINDLE SPEED: 1725 RPM
- SPINDLE OSCILLATES AT 72 SPM
- INCLUDES 100 GRIT SLEEVE FOR EACH SPINDLE & GROUND STEEL TABLE INSERTS
- 10 TAPERED & THREADED SPINDLE SIZES
- PERMANENTLY LUBRICATED BALL BEARINGS
- BUILT-IN 4" DUST PORT
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 300 LBS.



G1071

REG. ~~$525.00~~

SALE $495.00

$75 shipping ANYWHERE IN LOWER 48 STATES

24" DRUM SANDER WITH VARIABLE SPEED

- 5 HP, 220V DRUM MOTOR DRIVES 2 ALUMINUM SANDING DRUMS
- ¼ HP VARIABLE SPEED CONVEYOR MOTOR
- CONTROL PANEL WITH AMP LOAD METER
- HANDLES STOCK UP TO 23½" WIDE AND 4¼" THICK
- HOOK AND LOOP SANDPAPER INSTALLS EASILY ONTO THE DRUMS
- INDUSTRIAL RUBBER CONVEYOR BELT
- 2 - 4" DIA. DUST PORTS
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 495 LBS.

Z SERIES

G1066Z

REG. ~~$1595.00~~

SALE $1550.00

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15" WIDE-BELT SANDER (OPEN END)

- SANDING BELT MOTOR: 5 HP
- BELT FEED MOTOR: ¼ HP
- REQUIRES SINGLE-PHASE, 220V ELECTRICAL AND 50-70 PSI AIR.
- CONVEYOR SPEED 13 & 16.4 FPM
- INCLUDES EXTENDED SUPPORT BAR FOR WIDE BOARDS.
- OVERALL DIMENSIONS: 61¾"H x 32½"D x 35"W
- APPROX. SHIPPING WEIGHT: 922 LBS.

G9983

REG. ~~$2795.00~~

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WOOD®

October 2003, Issue 151

WOOD MAGAZINE'S IDEA SHOP 5 — AFFORDABLE • MOBILE • MODULAR • ADAPTABLE • EASY TO BUILD • MULTI-USE • SPACE-SAVING STORAGE

IDEA SHOP 5 COVERAGE

8 **the chosen few: idea shop 5 tools**

12 **easy-mover mobile base**

44 **tour of idea shop 5**
See why this may be our best workshop ever.

48 **ultimate workshop floor cabinet**
Start with this versatile, yet simple design to make the cabinets shown at *left* and *right*.

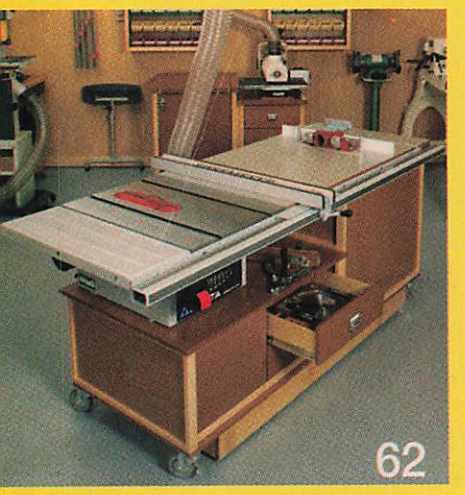
56 **tough-stuff workbench**

58 **hands-on guide to workshop layout**
Using our tool templates, plan a workshop that makes sense for your space and needs.

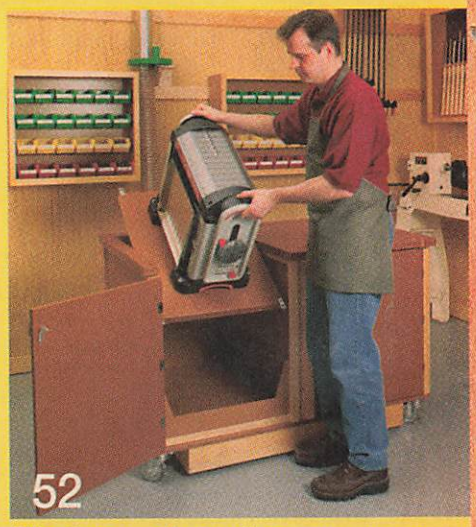
70 **how to table-mount routers**
Learn to cut the table opening, and install a snug-fitting, tool-bearing insert plate.

72 **laying down a shop-floor finish**

98 **a simple way to level tables to tools**
Ensure extension tables measure dead-even with machine surfaces using this four-step process.



mobile sawing/routing center



flip-top work center

WOOD MAGAZINE SHOP TESTED APPROVED™

This seal is your assurance that we build every project, verify every fact, and test every reviewed tool in our workshop to guarantee your success and complete satisfaction.

MORE PROJECTS

80 **super-useful tablesaw jigs**
Crosscut, taper, or slice thin strips of wood accurately with this trio of shop-made helpers.

86 **heavenly child's mobile**
Scrollsaw a fantasy universe of stars, planets, and more using the full-sized patterns inside.

88 **high-class collector's cabinet**

94 **Galileo thermometer**
Monitor room temps with this novelty project.

96 **tablesaw blade-height gauge**
Elevate your saw blade precisely with our adjustable scaled jig.

TOOLS & MATERIALS

14 **coloring maple made simple**

34 **3 hot new portable planers**

38 **must-have router bits**

74 **tool test: 3-hp tablesaws**
Upgrade your workshop with one of the cabinet-style machines featured in our test.

102 **6 shop-proven products**

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6 sounding board

18 ask *WOOD*

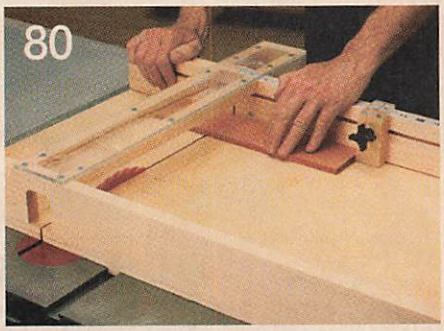
22 shop tips

32 short cuts

42 workshop woods

100 wood words

120 what's ahead in our next issue



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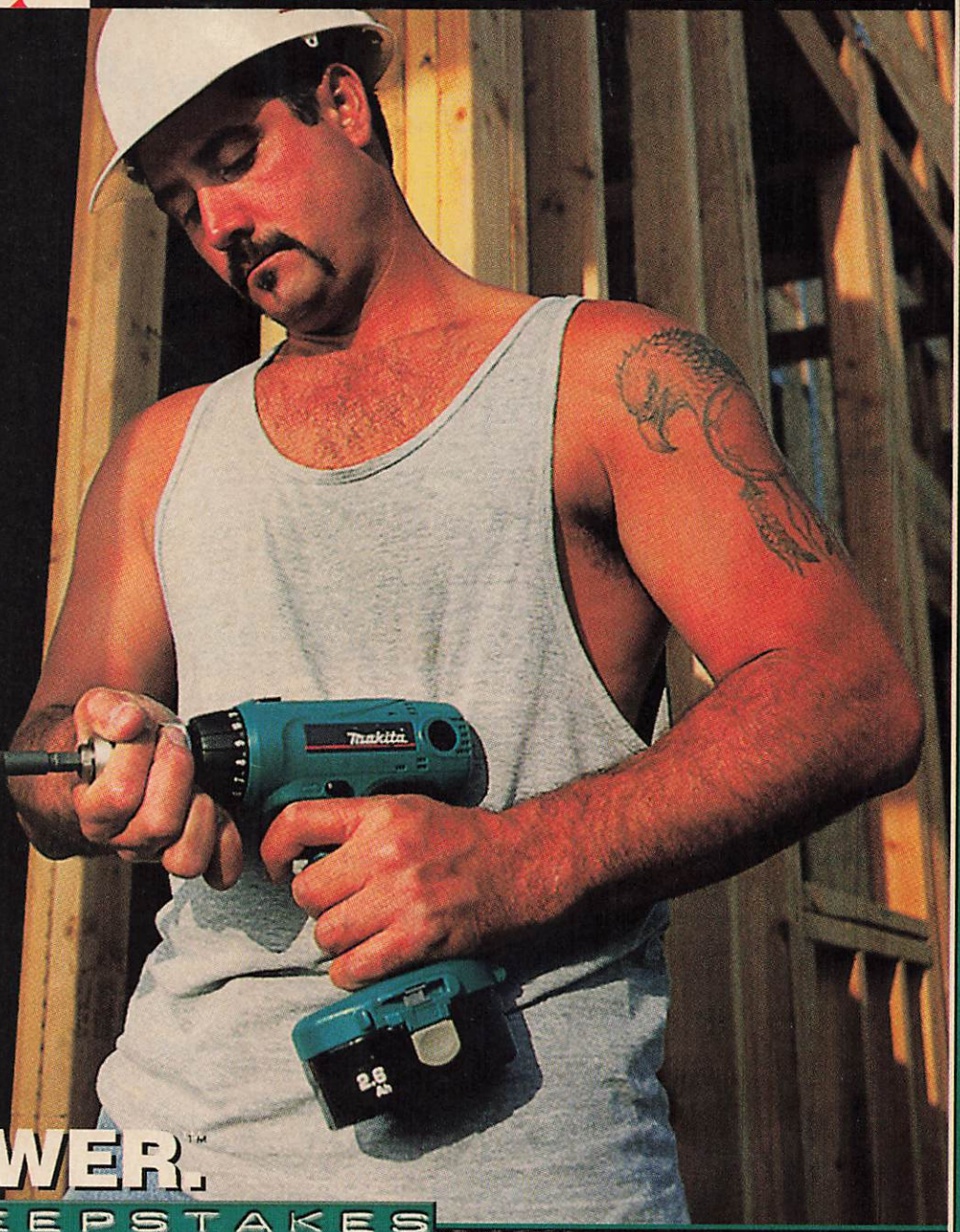

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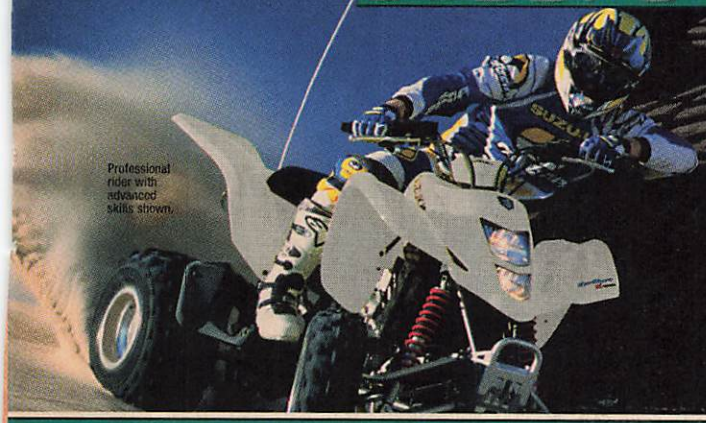

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(15) Third Prizes
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editor's angle

the #1 "project" for all of us

Woodworkers come in all shapes, ages, and backgrounds, and just as varied are the projects we build. Some of us make furniture, others prefer quick-and-easy projects, and many woodworkers do primarily turning or scrollsaw work. Yet, all of us share a love for our workshop, and often spend as much time improving it as we do building individual projects.

Staff who helped bring you Idea Shop 5, from left: Jeff Mertz, Kevin Boyle, Jan Svec, me, Dave Stone, Dave Campbell, Owen Duvall, and Chuck Hedlund.

For this very reason, we've devoted much of this issue to our fifth Idea Shop. To make that possible, we designed and built a complete workshop from scratch. During such events, everyone on the staff gets involved, especially the guys in the photo *above*. It's a lot of hard work, but there's no better way to bring fresh shop solutions to the fore, test new designs, and see how well they function together in a real shop. We've built previous Idea Shops in outbuildings, a garage that shares space with cars, and a basement. This time, the Idea Shop is located in the third stall of Design Editor Jeff Mertz's garage. (Lucky guy!)

So how did we decide on that setting? It all began when Jeff and his wife Jennifer decided to build a new home. Of course, while Jen was picking out carpeting and curtains, Jeff was focused on setting up a new shop. At the same time, several of us had been discussing that it was high time we did another Idea Shop. (Earlier Idea Shops debuted in issues 54, 72, 100, and 119.)

So the timing was perfect. Jeff's new garage was the right size and provided us with a "blank slate." More than that, we had a motivated new homeowner willing to invest a lot of his own time and sweat in the endeavor. A deal was struck, and you hold the results.

Personally, I'm pretty pleased with the way things turned out. The shop meets all of the goals for innovation and space savings that we established before work began. Those objectives, and others emblazoned on the Idea Shop logo, *left*, were dictated by what you, our readers, told us is important in a shop. I think you'll find at least one or two ideas you can put to work in your own shop.

Wanna be like Jeff? We're looking for a reader's shop that we can help redesign and improve. If you're interested, see the details on *page 46*.

Bill Krier

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In Memoriam — E.T. Meredith III (1933-2003)

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sounding board

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A new twist on a classic tool chest

When I saw the Craftsman-style tool-chest project in your June/July 2002 issue (page 42), it was love at first sight. Yet, I couldn't relegate such a beautiful design to my garage shop. So I modified the plan to create a coffee table, *left.*

I eliminated one of the drawers and scaled the piece up to about 18H×20W×32L". The wood is soft maple with quilted maple veneer for the panels and drawer faces. Both sides are identical except that the drawer pulls out from one side only. The side shown in the picture is actually a false drawer front. I plan to build a couple of matching end tables based on this same design.

Kevin M. Roberts, Katy, Texas

Reader builds knowledge and finds inspiration

I receive subscription offers for other woodworking magazines, but *WOOD*® is the only one I choose. I really enjoy your new "Wood Words" section (issue 149, page 110). In that same issue, the short piece about the blind woodworker, Ed Pritchard (page 38), was inspiring and heartwarming, and it made me thankful for the few abilities that I have as a woodworker. Thanks for the fine articles.

Warren W. Aafedt, Windsor, Conn.

Project update

Candle Lanterns (issue 148): The glass pieces (shown in **Drawing 3**, page 67) should measure 3 9/16" wide. If you already cut glass to the 3 11/16" size listed, leave two panes for each lantern at that width, and recut the other two to 3 7/16".

A shop teacher speaks out

I read about your mentoring contest (issue 148, page 4), and was very pleased to see that you are trying to do something to draw more young people into woodworking, and halt the decline of woodshop classes. I have been a shop teacher for 20 years, and I know that teaching these skills is important. Unfortunately, the new way of thinking is that shop classes are out of date, with limited value for today's students.

I often wonder how we developed such a great country with people trained in the traditional educational setting that included shop classes, home economics, and all that other "fluff." I know that my shop classes were the only things that kept some kids in school. It upsets me when people speak with pride of doing away with the "dirty old shops" in their schools. Keep up the good work.

Duane Strand, Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Thanks, Duane, for sharing your thoughts, and for helping young people discover the benefits of woodworking.

A scene from the past or inspiration for the future? Students enjoy a day in the shop.

HOW TO REACH US

Editorial questions and feedback:
E-mail **woodmail@woodmagazine.com**; call 800/374-9663 and press option 2; or write to: WOOD magazine, 1716 Locust St., GA-310, Des Moines, IA 50309-3023.

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Updates to previously published projects:
For a complete listing of known changes in dimensions and buying-guide sources from issue 1 through today, go to **woodmagazine.com/editorial**.

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WOOD MAGAZINE'S IDEA SHOP 5

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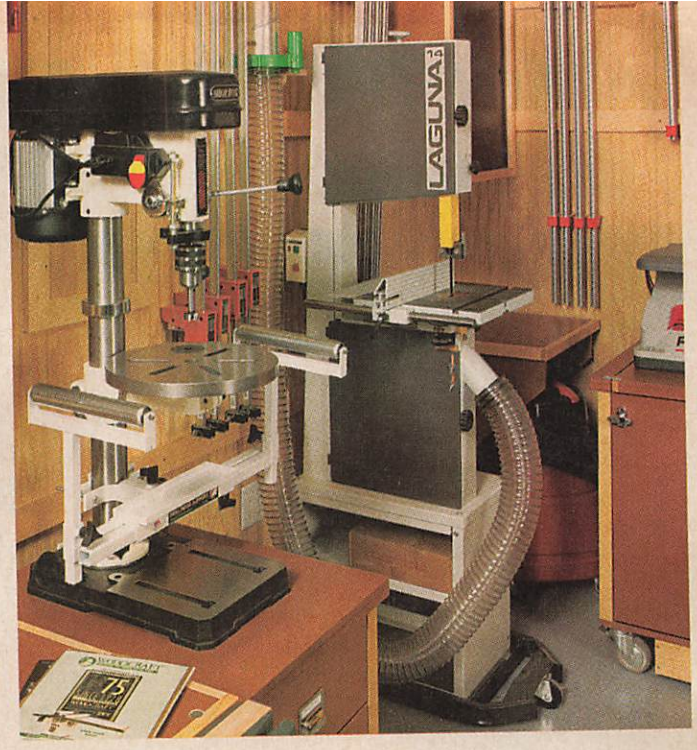
Tools rule in Idea Shop 5



Curious about which tools we chose for our latest shop, and why we selected them? Here's the inside scoop.

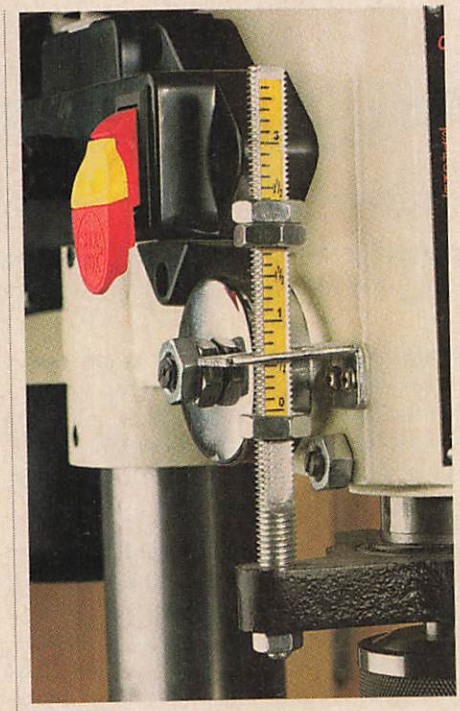
Put a dozen woodworkers in a room and, before long, they'll start talking about tools. Then, look out. The discussion can get pretty heated. Let's face it: We all have different preferences when it comes to price, features, and brand loyalty, not to mention the way the same tool feels in different people's hands.

That's why choosing the tools and accessories for Idea Shop 5 proved a challenge for the editors of *WOOD*® magazine. When the smoke cleared, though, we settled on an array of products that have proved themselves in our extensive tool tests through the years, and, in some cases, are innovative.

Of course, budget and space are always key concerns when outfitting any woodworking shop, and we kept a close eye on both. Wherever we could economize without significantly impacting performance, we opted for a benchtop tool instead of a stationary model.

That's not to say we didn't indulge ourselves occasionally. For example, Idea Shop 5 utilizes a cyclone dust collector, beefy ductwork, and blast gates that open and close automatically when you fire up a power tool. We believe dust collection is one key area in your shop where you shouldn't scrimp.

So, these are the power tools, hand tools, and accessories we chose. We've organized them into four categories, followed by a listing of phone numbers and Web sites for each supplier.



STATIONARY AND BENCHTOP MACHINERY

14" bandsaw **Laguna** LT14
2×42" belt/8" disc sander **Craftsman** 21528
Benchtop oscillating drill press **Shop Fox** W1668
Compound mitersaw **DeWalt** DW703
Cyclone dust collector **Penn State** #TEMPESTCC
Drum sander **Performax** 16-32 Plus
6" grinder **Grizzly** H4378 with G7120 stand
6" jointer **Grizzly** G1182HW
Lathe **Jet** JWL-1442
Mortiser **Jet** JBM-5
Oscillating edge belt/spindle sander **Ridgid** EB4424
13" planer **Ridgid** TP-1300
Tablesaw **Delta** 36-480

PORTABLE POWER TOOLS

26-gallon air compressor **Campbell-Hausfeld** WL6111
3×21" belt sander **Craftsman** 26819
Biscuit joiner **Porter-Cable** 557
2" brad nailer **DeWalt** D51238K
Corded drill **DeWalt** D21008K
Cordless drill (14.4 volt) **Makita** 6337DWDE
Detail sander **Fein** Multimaster MSXE 636-2
Jigsaw **Freud** FJ85
Random-orbit sander **Porter-Cable** Quicksand 333VS
Routers **Bosch** 1619EVS plunge router, **Makita** RF1101 multi-base router kit, **Porter-Cable** 8529 plunge router with router-table kit 75301
Vacuums **Craftsman** 17923 16-gallon wet/dry vac, **Fein** 9-55-13 9-gallon tool-triggered vac

Continued on page 10

MORE Demos

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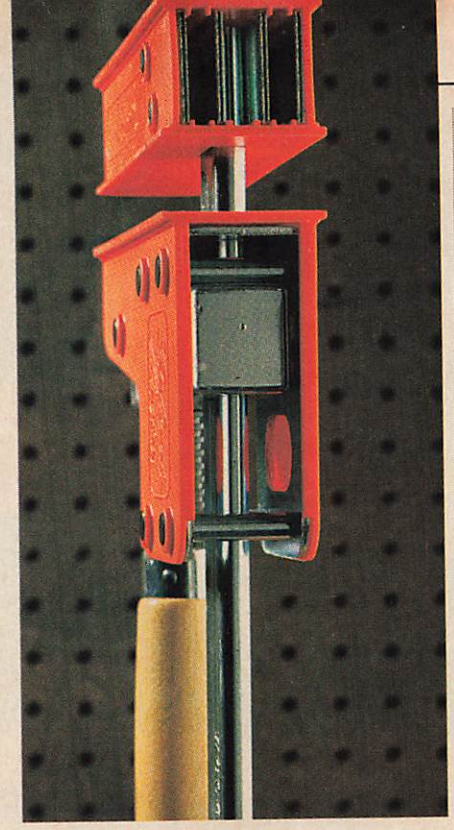


ACCESSORIES

Clamps
Bessey 8", 16", and 24" bar clamps
Quick-Grip 12", 18", and 24" Quick Change bar clamps; 6", 12" mini bar clamps; spring clamps
Jorgensen 24"and 48" bar clamps, 48" Deep-reach bar clamps (Adjustable Clamp Company)

Drill bits
MLCS 22-piece Forstner bit set #1707, 25-piece brad-point bit set #9154, 22-piece tapered bit set #9156, and 17-piece spade bit set #9500
Woodcraft Vix self-centering drill bits 16I41, 16I42, 16I43

Miter gauge **Incra** Miter3000

Mobile bases **Shop Fox** D2260 (jointer), **HTC** style J (bandsaw)

Rapid-action vise **Wilton** 78A

Router bits
Freud 15-piece router bit set 90-100
CMT 15-piece router bit set 800.001.11
MLCS 15-piece router bit set #8377
Oldham 1/4", 3/8", and 1/2" round-over bits, 45° chamfer bit, and rabbeting bit set MR14
Woodline USA 15-piece router bit set WL-2022

Router-table fence **Freud** SH-5 adjustable fence system

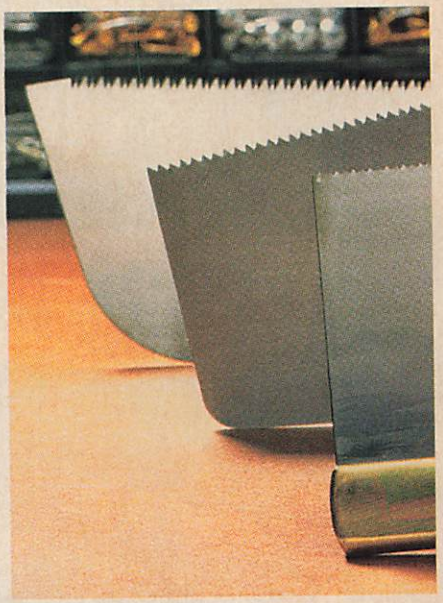
Router-table insert plate
Rousseau RM3509 deluxe router baseplate

Router-table switch **Rousseau** RM3506 switch with crash bar

Safety equipment **MSA Safety Works**

Sandpaper **Mirka** Gold 5" hook-and-loop discs; **Supergrit** belts, discs, and sheets (Red Hill Corp.)

Saw blades
CMT ITK rip blade 250.024.10 and crosscut blade 205.060.10
Forrest Woodworker II combination blade WW10407
Freud combination blade LU84R011, crosscut blade LU85R010, and 8" dado set SD508
Oldham combination blade 100W40 and miter-saw blade 100W80



HAND TOOLS AND MISCELLANEOUS

Hand tools
Woodcraft Caliper & divider set, no. 141597; center finder, no. 01M24; circle cutter, no. 15N31; cornering tool set, no. 03L51; dead-blow hammer, no. 15F17; doweling jig, no. 811564; Record No. 09-1/2 block plane, no. 02B20; Record No. 060-1/2 low-angle block plane, no. 01B11; Record spokeshave, no. 01H10; 22" hand saw, no. 17Z05; coping saw, no. 141403; crosscut razorsaw, no. 02P62; small Ryoba saw, no. 06Q11; straight backsaw, no. 17Z01; scrapers, no. 02Z10; scratch awl, no. 03H22; sliding bevel square, marking gauge, and square, no. 14C50; steel rules 6" and 12", nos. 129207 and 129208

Adhesives
Titebond and **Titebond II** (Franklin International)
Gorilla Glue polyurethane

Automated blast gates **Ecogate** EG001 Complete Startup Set

Dust-collection duct **Penn State** spiral duct

Fluorescent lighting **Lithonia Lighting**

Garage-floor coating **EPOXYShield**

Gas-fired heater **Reznor** model V3 UDAS

Lumber rack storage system
Woodcraft part no. 131189

Wood paneling **Georgia-Pacific** Ply-Bead

SHOP TIP

Drop a timely hint before you drop your dough

You might want to leave this article lying open where someone special can see it. After all, the holidays aren't far away.

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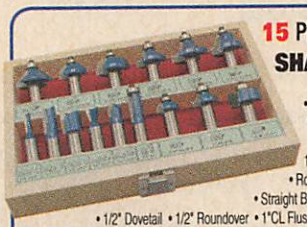

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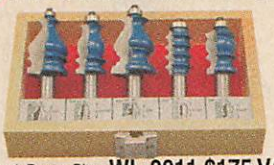

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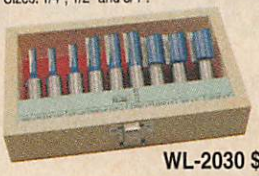

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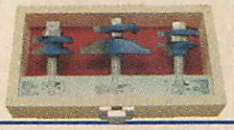

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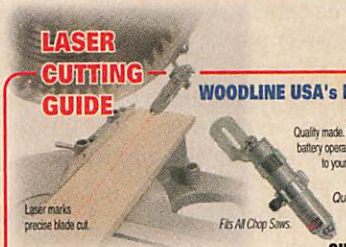

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easy-mover mobile base

This adaptable platform combines stout construction and smooth mobility.

To take the strain out of moving the tool-bearing floor cabinets in Idea Shop 5 (*page 48*), we designed this simple rolling base. It features a ¾"-thick MDF platform (A) on a sturdy frame (B, C, D), and heavy-duty casters that swivel for unlimited mobility, but lock to keep any tool firmly planted while in use.

The dimensions here create a base that's sized for the mobile sawing/routing center (*page 62*). You can modify the plan to fit under most any tool or cabinet. Just follow the guidelines, *bottom*, to learn how.

Start by cutting the platform to size. Then, lay out and drill the holes for the frame-mounting screws, where dimensioned. Now rout ⅛" round-overs on the platform edges, as shown.

To locate the casters, mark the outermost mounting hole on each one's plate, where dimensioned. Drill the remaining holes, but don't mount the casters yet.

Next, cut the support frame pieces to size. Predrill the countersunk shank and pilot holes, where shown, to receive the #8×1¾" screws that join the frame.

Place the platform on the frame, ensuring consistent overhangs on all sides. Using the platform's shank holes as guides, drill pilot holes into the frame. Then, screw the platform to the frame.

Finally, apply a coat of clear finish to the entire project, attach the casters, and mount any shop tool or fixture that you want to make mobile.

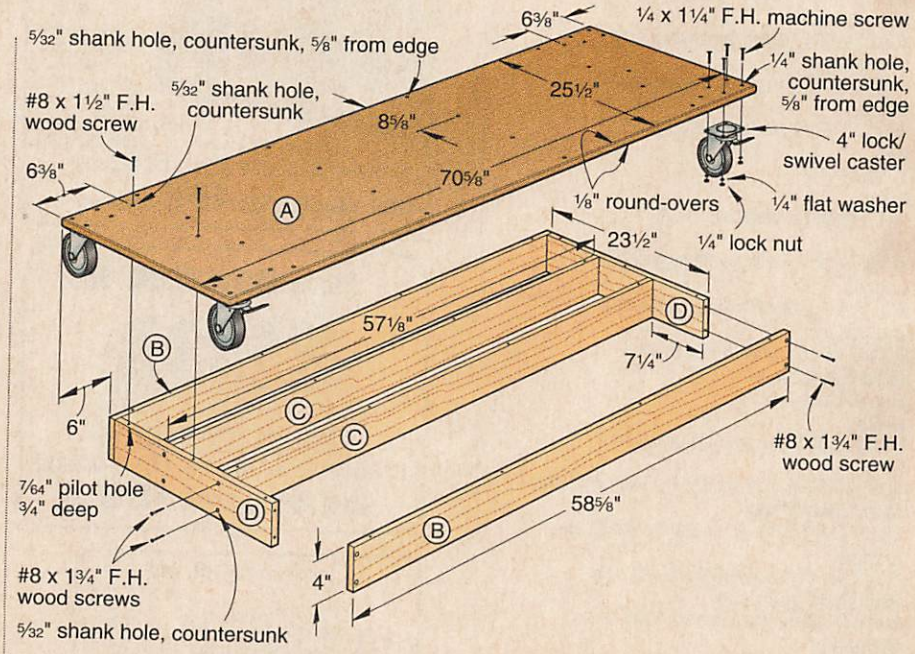

Illustration: **Roxanne LeMoine**

Materials List

Part	FINISHED SIZE T	W	L	Matl.	Qty.
A platform	¾"	25½"	70⅝"	MDF	1
B front/back frames	¾"	4"	58⅝"	M	2
C center frames	¾"	4"	57⅛"	M	2
D end frames	¾"	4"	23½"	M	2

Materials key: MDF–medium-density fiberboard, M–maple.

Supplies: #8×1½" flathead wood screws (22), #8×1¾" flathead wood screws (16), ¼×1¼" flathead machine screws, lock nuts, and washers (16).

Buying Guide

Casters: 4" Lock/Swivel Casters 00K20.01 (4), $11.50 each. Lee Valley Tools; 800/871-8158 or www.leevalley.com.

Sizing Guidelines

You can resize the mobile base easily to suit almost any need. Here's how:

1) Determine the size of the platform (A).
2) Length of B=Length of A–12"
3) Length of C=length of B–1½"
4) Length of D=width of A–2"

Note: Overall base height equals 5¾". Weight capacity (including the base) is 600 pounds.

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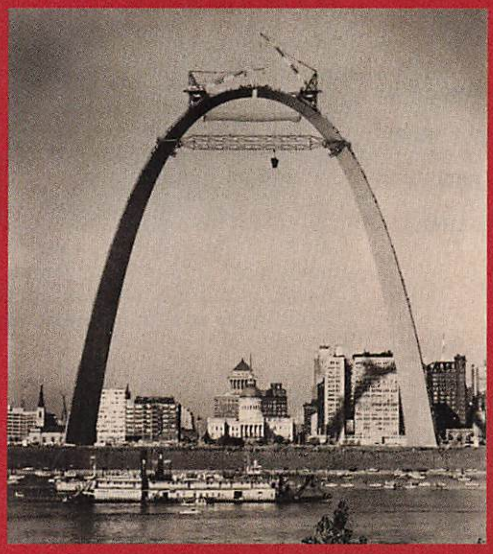

Take our 3-D Sander as an example. It combines three independent, pivoting heads with the known reliability of circular sanding, giving it the ability to hug curved surfaces like a racecar. Of course, you may not face a project of the Arch's stature. But no matter what sanding project faces you, the 3-D Sander's lightweight design really lessens the workload. And changing sandpaper on the 3-D Sander is effortless, too. Just unhook, change paper, rehook and go. Craftsman—available at Sears, Sears Hardware Stores and online at craftsman.com. Since 1927, we've been providing Americans with the right tools for the job. Whether they're restoring a Queen Anne table—or building a gateway to the West.

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coloring maple made simple

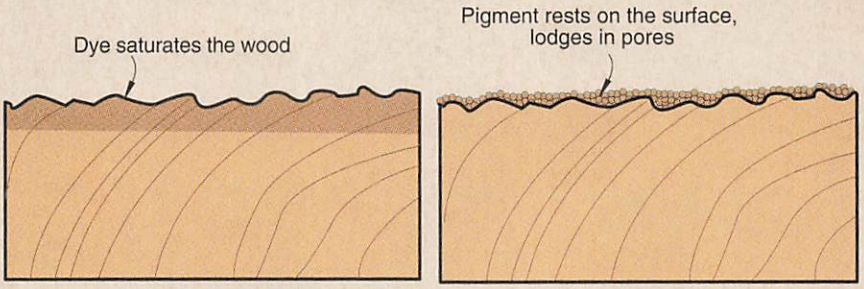
Many woodworkers rely on stains for every change of color, but you'll get better results on this dense wood with dye or tinted shellac.

Mix two parts of denatured alcohol with one part of premixed shellac from a can to make a thin form of shellac (approximately a 1-lb. cut). To tint this mixture, add one or two drops of alcohol-soluble dye per 4 oz. of shellac. Brush, spray, or wipe it on your maple project to produce clear, even color.

Hard maple looks like the woodworker's version of a painter's blank canvas—virtually white, and ready to be transformed with any color you choose. That's why we selected maple for the child's mobile on *page 86*, and then used food coloring to get the cheerful tones we wanted.

When you want to transform maple with even more vibrant colors or traditional wood tones, you need something beyond simple food coloring. Just remember that when it comes to hard maple, stain can be a pain. You'll get better results if you rely on dye—or give tinted shellac a try, as we did on the stool shown *above right*.

Dyes vs. stains



Dyes penetrate the wood, allowing the grain to show through. Pigmented stains work like thin paint, resting on the wood surface. A heavy application can obscure the grain.

How they work

The illustration at *right* shows you how stains and dyes work differently. A product labeled as stain contains relatively large pieces of pigment. It colors wood by depositing that pigment in pores and grain lines. Because hard maple is quite dense, a pigmented stain finds few places to lodge. When you wipe off the excess, very little color remains behind. What does remain behind may create a blotchy appearance because maple tends to have an irregular grain that absorbs stain in different degrees.

By contrast, dyes contain extremely tiny particles of color, and penetrate

Continued on page 16

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throughout the surface of a piece of wood. They produce rich color and a generally smooth appearance on hard maple, but you still might see blotching. Dyes come in many bright colors, as shown on the samples, *below*, *right*.

Applying dye

You can use either oil- or alcohol-based dye or water-based dye, all available in woodworking stores and through mail-order catalogs. As a general rule, go with water-based dyes. They penetrate deeper than the other kinds, so they fade less. Alcohol-based dyes fade the quickest, and oil-soluble dyes rank in the middle of the fading scale.

However, water-based dyes raise the wood's grain. Defeat that problem by sanding the wood, thoroughly wetting it with clear water, and finally smoothing the raised grain the next day with 220-grit sandpaper. Then you can apply the water-based dye without raising more grain.

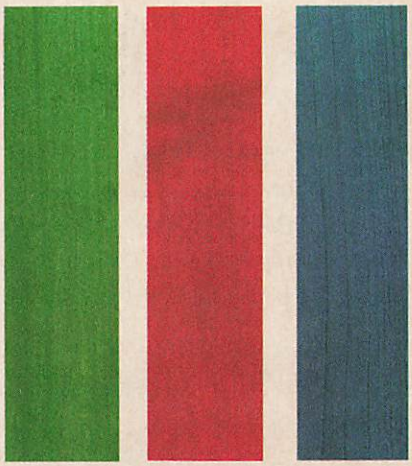
Choose either liquid or powder form. Tiny lumps of dye can remain undissolved after you mix a powder dye with its solvent, so strain the mixture through a paper filter or cheesecloth.

Test your dye on a sample of your maple stock. When you're satisfied, brush, spray, or wipe the dye mixture on your project, and then wipe off the excess before it dries. You can modify the result by adding any number of dye colors directly on the wood, creating new shades.

Shellac solves problems

Bright dyes tend to work well on maple, but sometimes you might see uneven coloring with wood-tone dyes. If that happens on your test piece, try tinted shellac. Start with a 1-lb. cut of shellac, and then add either a mix of alcohol-soluble dye and denatured alcohol or a premixed liquid dye.

Test the color on scrap, and then brush, spray, or wipe it on your proj-ect. Because shellac forms a film, this approach places color on the surface of the wood instead of depending on even penetration, virtually guaranteeing a consistent appearance.



If you need bright colors on maple, choose dyes for the kind of results you see here. We mixed the dyes with water.

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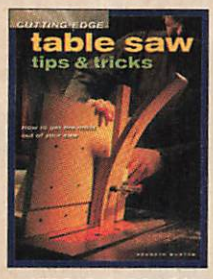

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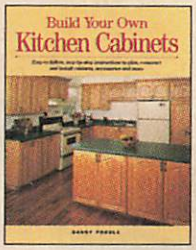

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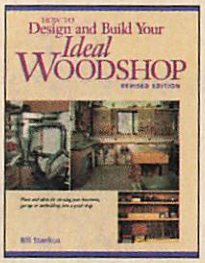

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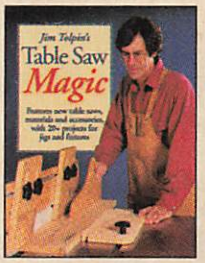

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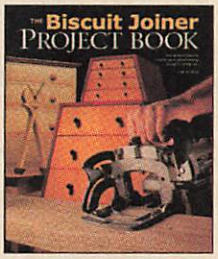

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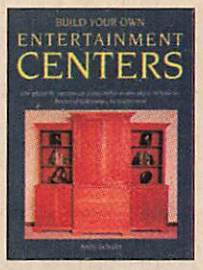

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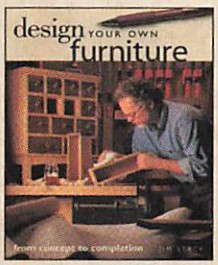

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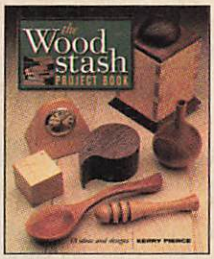

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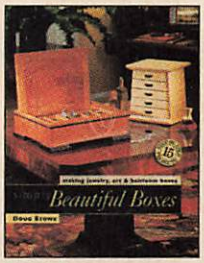

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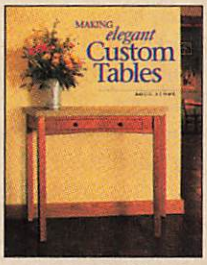

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Take it easy with clamp pressure

Q: As a newcomer to woodworking, I'm not sure how much clamping pressure to use on joints made with woodworker's yellow glue. Can you give me some guidelines?

—John Burns, St. Paul, Minn.

A: John, the short answer is that a good-fitting joint with the right amount of glue doesn't require tremendous pressure. The clamps just serve to hold the surfaces in contact while the glue dries.

However, let's assume that most joints fall short of perfect, and benefit from enough force to push them into complete contact. Dale Zimmerman of Franklin International, maker of Titebond woodworking glues, recommends 100 to 150 pounds per square inch (psi) for clamping softwoods and 175–250 psi for hardwoods. When we tested one-handed bar clamps (issue 139), we found that they provided pressure just into the softwood range, or a bit less. Squeeze those clamps as hard as you can. But R. Bruce Hoadley, author of the book *Understanding Wood*, reports that other kinds of clamps, including the bottom three pictured at *right*, can produce far more pressure than needed. So don't go beyond "snug" when tightening those clamps.

The maximum recommended clamping pressure for most joints is 250 psi. Putting all your muscle into many common clamp styles generates excess pressure that could force out most of the glue, and produce a weak bond.

Give old furniture a good cleaning

Q: What's the best way to clean accumulated grime from old furniture? I don't want to damage the finish, which is still in good shape.

—Jeff Morris, Milwaukee

A: Start with soap and water, Jeff, and get more aggressive only as necessary. Mix a tablespoon of dishwashing liquid (it's not alkaline, like some household cleaners, and won't damage lacquer or shellac) in a quart of warm water. Stir it up to make suds, dip a piece of terry cloth into the suds only, and begin rubbing away the grime. You can increase the cleaning effect by dipping the cloth into the water, but don't let water stand on the wood; clean a small area, and then towel it dry. If stronger measures are required, moisten a cloth with naphtha, and rub. If you're still not satisfied, apply naphtha to a fine-grit scrubbing pad. To get into detailed areas with either soap or naphtha, use a nylon bristle brush, such as an old toothbrush.

When you want to restore furniture without stripping the finish, start with soap and water. Ordinary dishwashing soap removes a lot of grease and dirt.

Continued on page 20

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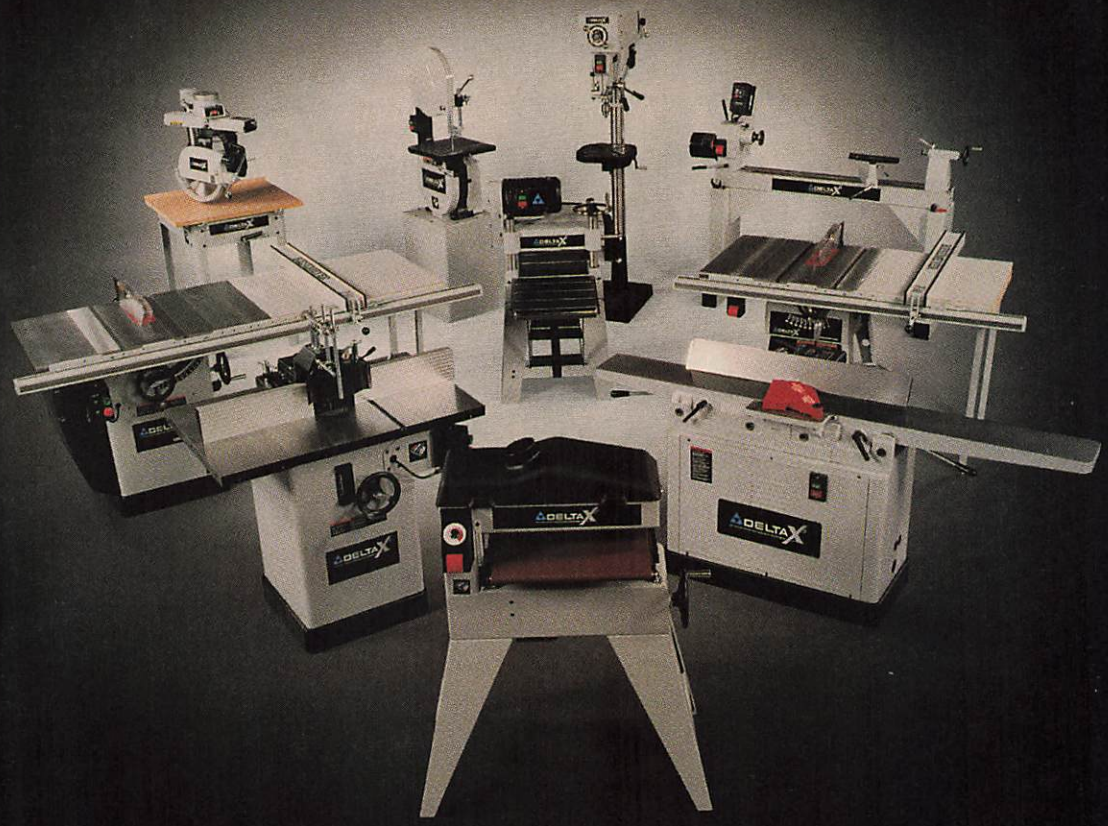

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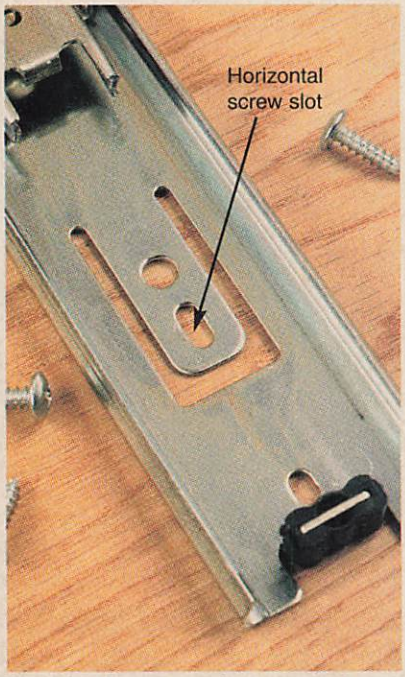
Metal slides, meet solid-wood sides

Q: Can I install metal drawer slides on a solid-wood cabinet without creating wood movement problems?

—Al Clarke, Texarkana, Texas

A: We haven't experienced any problems in doing that, Al, and the Accuride hardware company, a maker of drawer slides, isn't aware of any either, according to a spokesman. When you install the cabinet side part of the slide, you'll see holes, vertical slots, and horizontal slots. The slots make adjustment easier as you line up the drawer. Once you have everything aligned, put a screw through the round hole nearest the front of the cabinet. That pins the slide so that it remains aligned with the front. Then, put a screw in the center of each horizontal slot along the rest of the slide's length. The screws will slide slightly in the slots under the pressure of normal wood movement. Remove any screws that you placed in vertical slots.



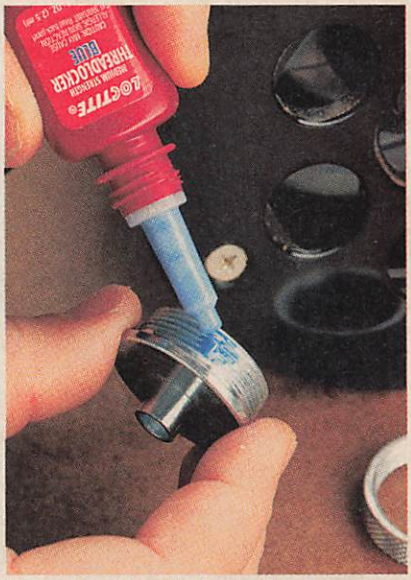
When you have occasion to mount metal drawer slides across the grain of a solid-wood cabinet side, take advantage of the horizontal screw slots. Screws placed here hold the slide in place, but allow wood to move.

A little dab holds the router bushing

Q: When I put a guide bushing in my router, and tighten it to the mounting ring with pliers, the ring usually works loose before the job ends. Is there some way to keep it in place?

—Jim Bishop, Lincoln, Neb.

A: Try a drop of thread-locking fluid, Jim. It comes in different styles for different purposes, and for this job you want the medium-strength version. Look at a hardware store or home center for Loctite Threadlocker Blue, or a similar product. It will hold the bushing assembly in place despite the vibration caused by routing. To avoid difficulty separating the bushing and the mounting ring, take them apart at the end of your workshop session, and clean the residual material out of the threads with an awl or a brass brush.



Thread-locking fluid helps hold your guide bushing and its mounting ring in place despite the router's vibration.

Got a question?

If you're looking for an answer to a woodworking question, write to **Ask WOOD, 1716 Locust St., GA-310, Des Moines, IA 50309-3023**, or send us an e-mail at **askwood@woodmagazine.com**. For immediate feedback from your fellow woodworkers, post your question on one of our woodworking forums at **www.woodmagazine.com**.

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shop tips

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Plug lock strikes a cord for safety

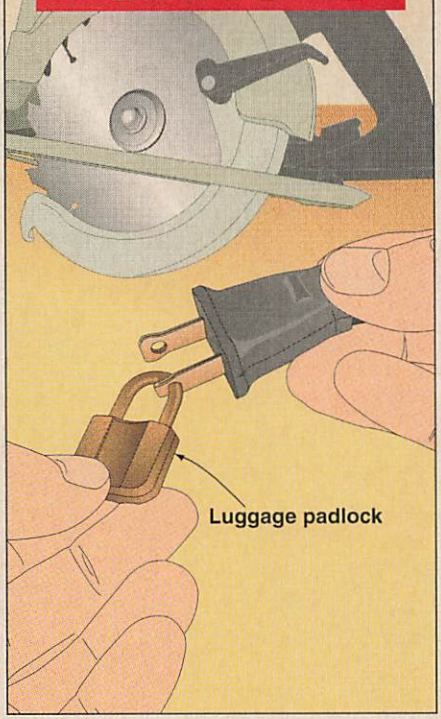
My wife and I don't have kids of our own, but we got a good lesson in child safety when my young nephew came to visit one day. While exploring "Uncle Mat's" stuff, he dug out my circular saw and gave me a good scare. (See "Our Winner," at *right*.) Later that day while looking around the hardware store, I noticed a set of tiny luggage padlocks and knew I'd found a solution.

The blades of most, if not all, electrical plugs have a hole in the end, and the shackle of the padlock fits nicely in that hole. With the padlock closed, the tool can't be plugged in.

The locks I bought were in a set of four, all keyed alike (meaning all of them open with the same key), and that key stays on my key ring. As a bonus, my buddies, as well as the guys on the job site, can't "borrow" my tools without my permission (and my key!).

—Mat McCarthy, Lake City, Tenn.

top shop tip



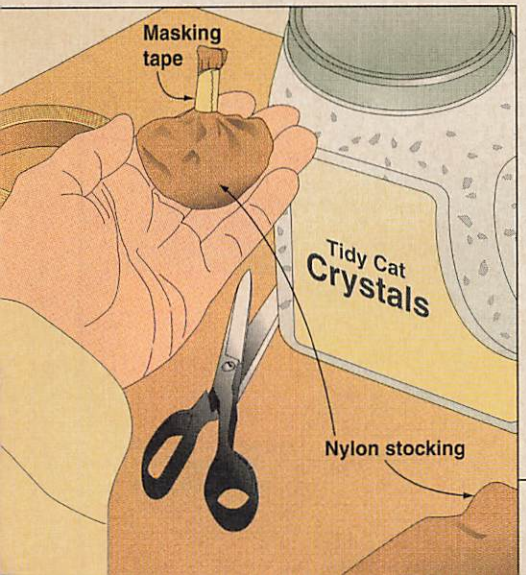
This cat-box filler makes a great rust-buster

Here in central Florida, the humidity wreaks rusty havoc on our woodworking tools. Keeping a good coat of wax on cast-iron tables prevents damage on power tools, but smaller hand tools, such as planes, chisels, and even socket wrenches, are harder to protect. I used to scatter those little packages of silica gel (that come with cameras and electronic gear) in the drawers of my tool chest to absorb the moisture, and it worked pretty well.

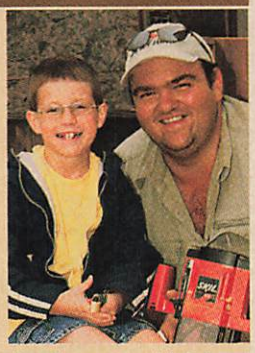
One day recently, I saw a container of Tidy Cat Crystals cat-box filler on the shelf at the grocery store, and noticed that it's made almost exclusively of silica granules. I brought some home, tied it up into packets (such as the one shown in the drawing) made from old nylon stockings, and then dropped several of the packets in my tool drawers. Using only these packets, my hand tools have survived more than a year without rusting.

—Charlie Lowell, Kissimmee, Fla.

Continue on page 24



Our Winner



A carpenter by trade, Mat McCarthy got a wake-up call one day when he spied his 7-year-old nephew, Nicky, dragging around his circular saw, which he thought had been safely tucked away. "You can imagine how my heart sank when I thought about all the 'what-ifs' had Nicky plugged that thing in," he recalls. We liked Mat's safety solution (shown at *left*) so much, we awarded him our Top Shop Tip tool prize.

We're sending a Jet DC-650CK dust collector with canister filter to Mat McCarthy for sending in this issue's Top Shop Tip. Enjoy it, Mat!

Top tips win top tools!

Describe how you've solved a workshop dilemma, and you'll earn $75 if it appears here. And, if your tip garners Top Shop Tip honors, you'll also win a tool prize worth at least $250.

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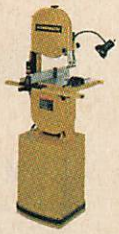

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Ohio
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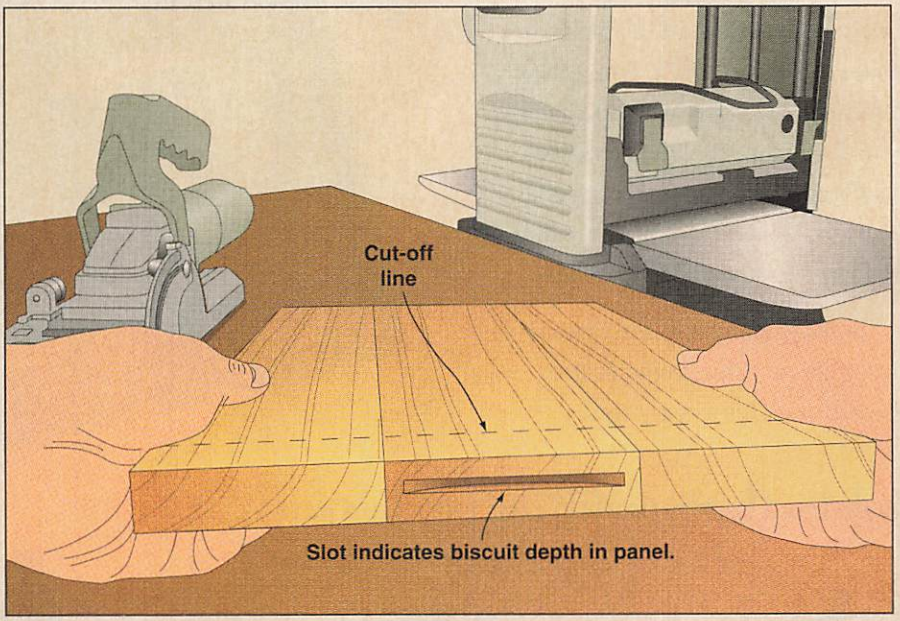
Extra slot keeps biscuits from rising

When planing a glued-up panel, I usually flip-flop it several times, always watching for the most interesting grain pattern to emerge. Before long, I've lost track of which side is which. And, I once accidentally planed deep enough that the biscuits that joined the panel's boards popped up, ruining a beautiful panel.

To avoid this, I now cut an extra biscuit slot in the waste area of the panel while I have my biscuit joiner out. (I make the panels extra long, and then trim the ends to remove any snipe.) Now, I always know when I'm planing too close to a biscuit.

—Jim Culler, Bellville, Ohio



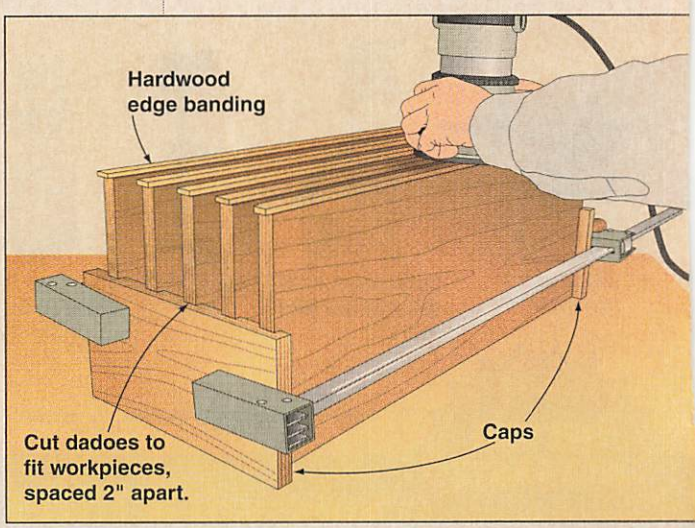
Fast flush-trimming for multiple pieces

Here's a way to quickly trim the solid-wood edge banding on plywood shelves yet still give good support for your router. First, cut dadoes to fit the shelving in a single piece of scrap plywood, then rip that piece down the middle to make two perfectly matched caps.

Clamp the shelves between the dadoed caps, as shown at *right*, then trim the banding with a flush-trim bit in your router. The shelves on either side keep the router from tipping.

If your router wants to tip when routing the outer shelves, rout all of the inside edges first, then unclamp the caps, swap the outside shelves with a pair of inside shelves, and trim the remaining two edges.

—Ike Evans, Coralville, Iowa



Continued on page 26

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October 2003 For your woodworking convenience Issue 151

Dear Reader: As a service to you, we've included full-size patterns on this insert for irregular-shaped and intricate project parts. You can machine all other project parts using the Materials List and the drawings accompanying the project you're building.

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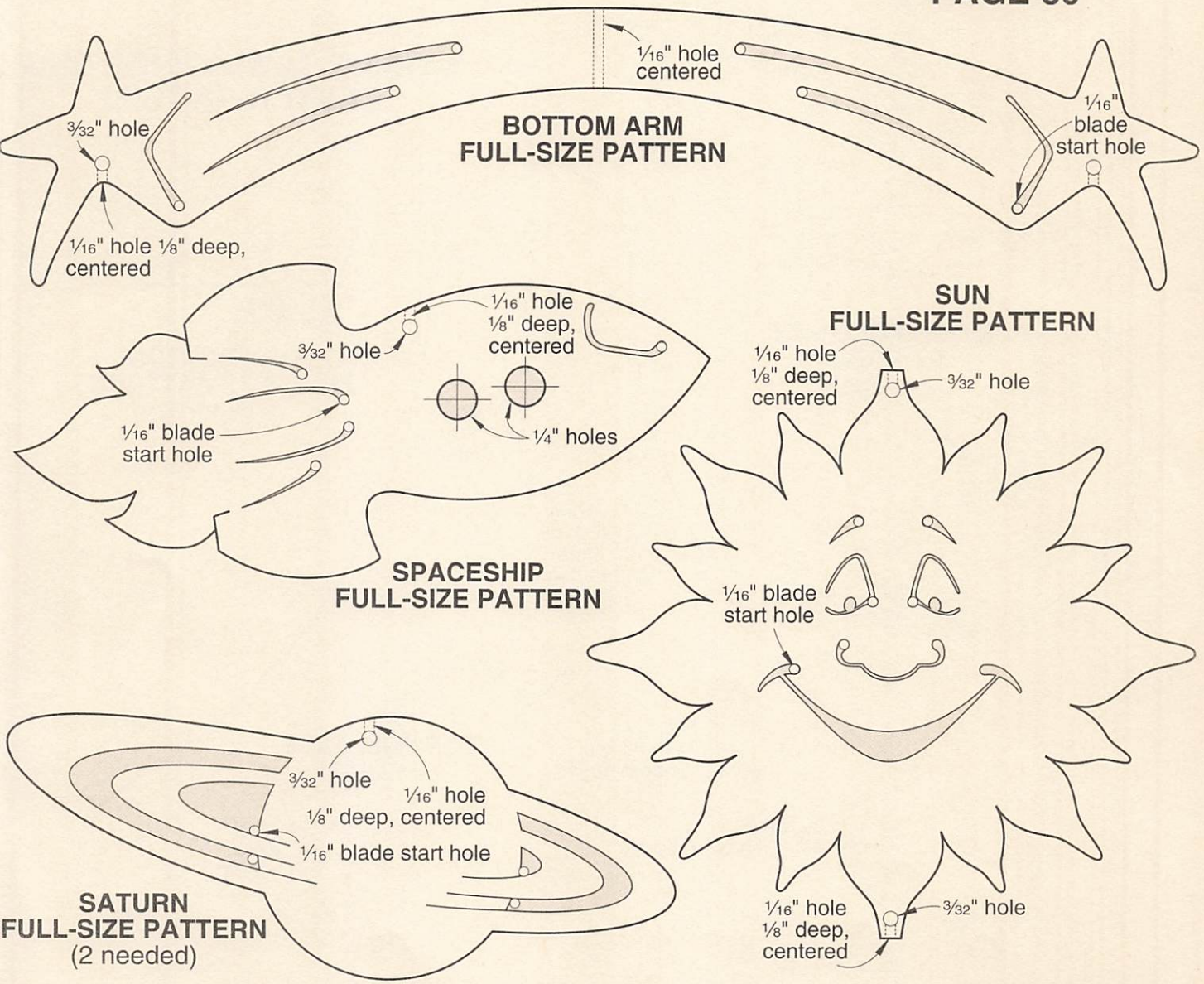
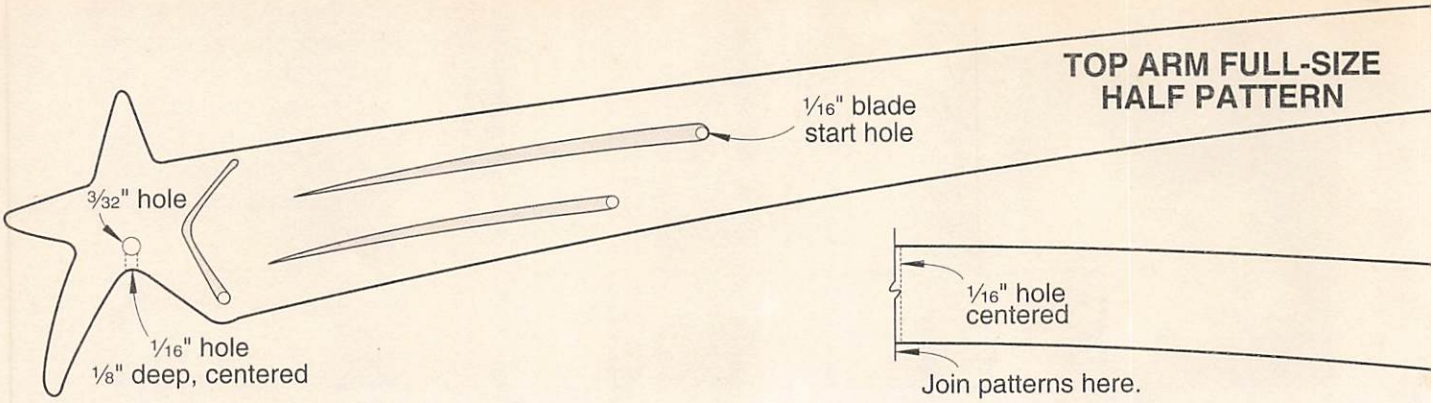
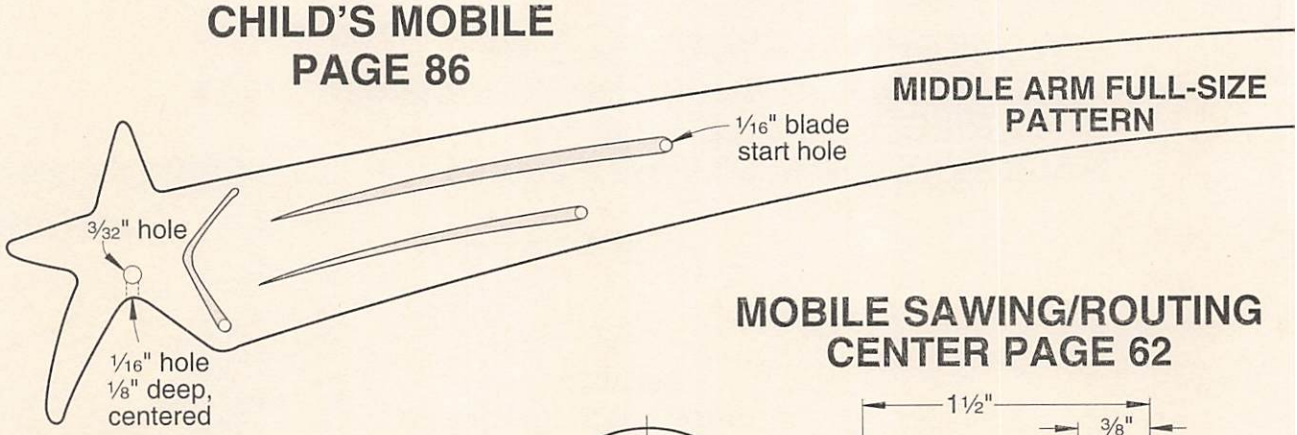
MOBILE SAWING/ROUTING CENTER Page 62
CHILD'S MOBILE Page 86
GALILEO THERMOMETER Page 94

CHILD'S MOBILE PAGE 86

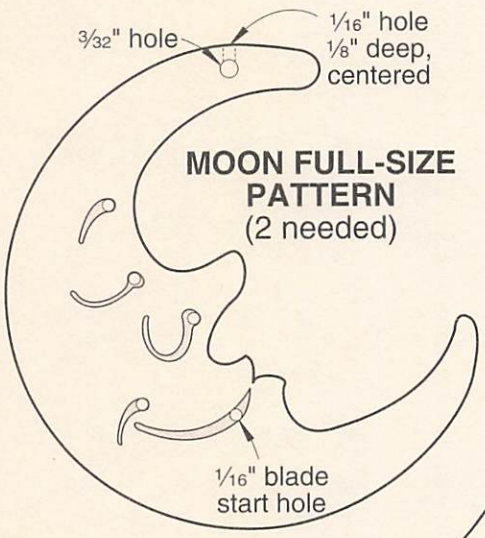


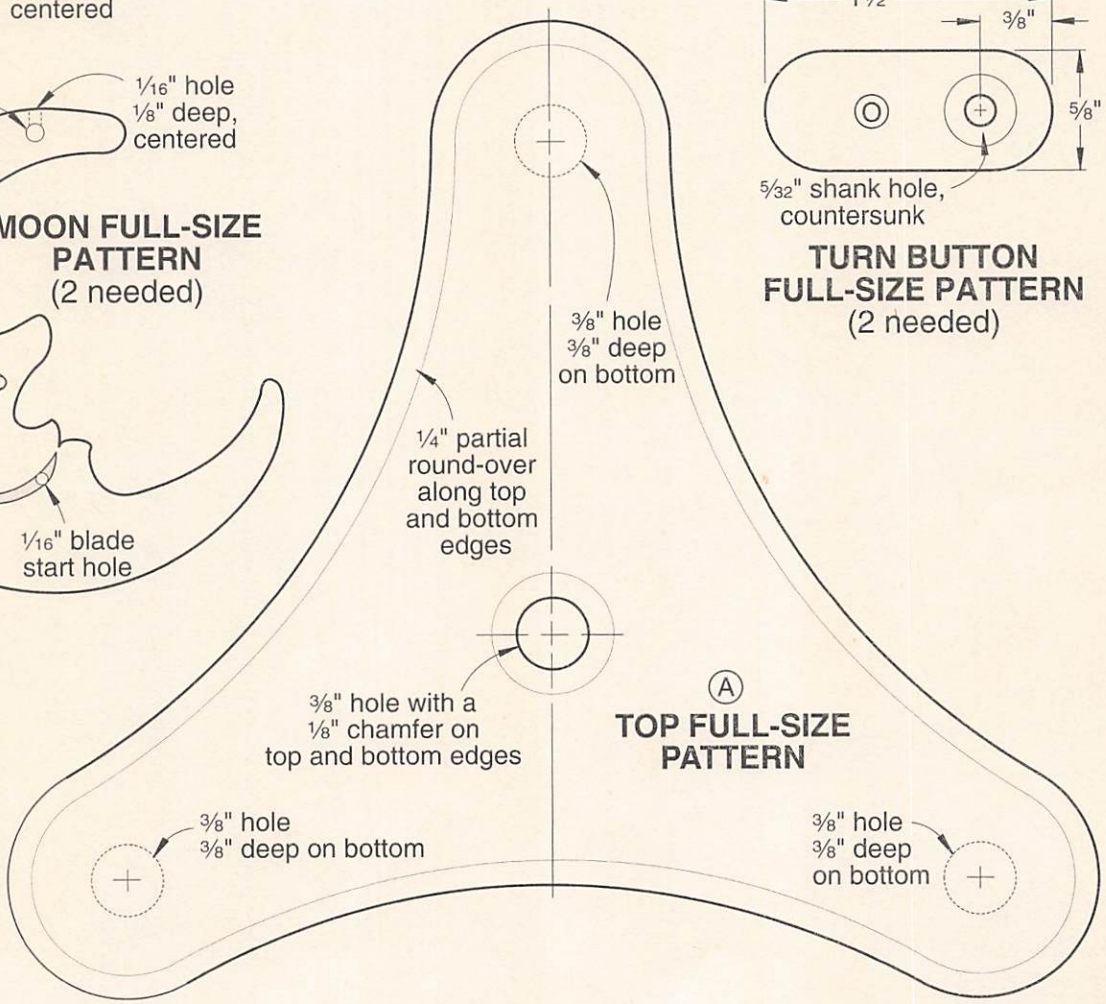


CHILD'S MOBILE PAGE 86

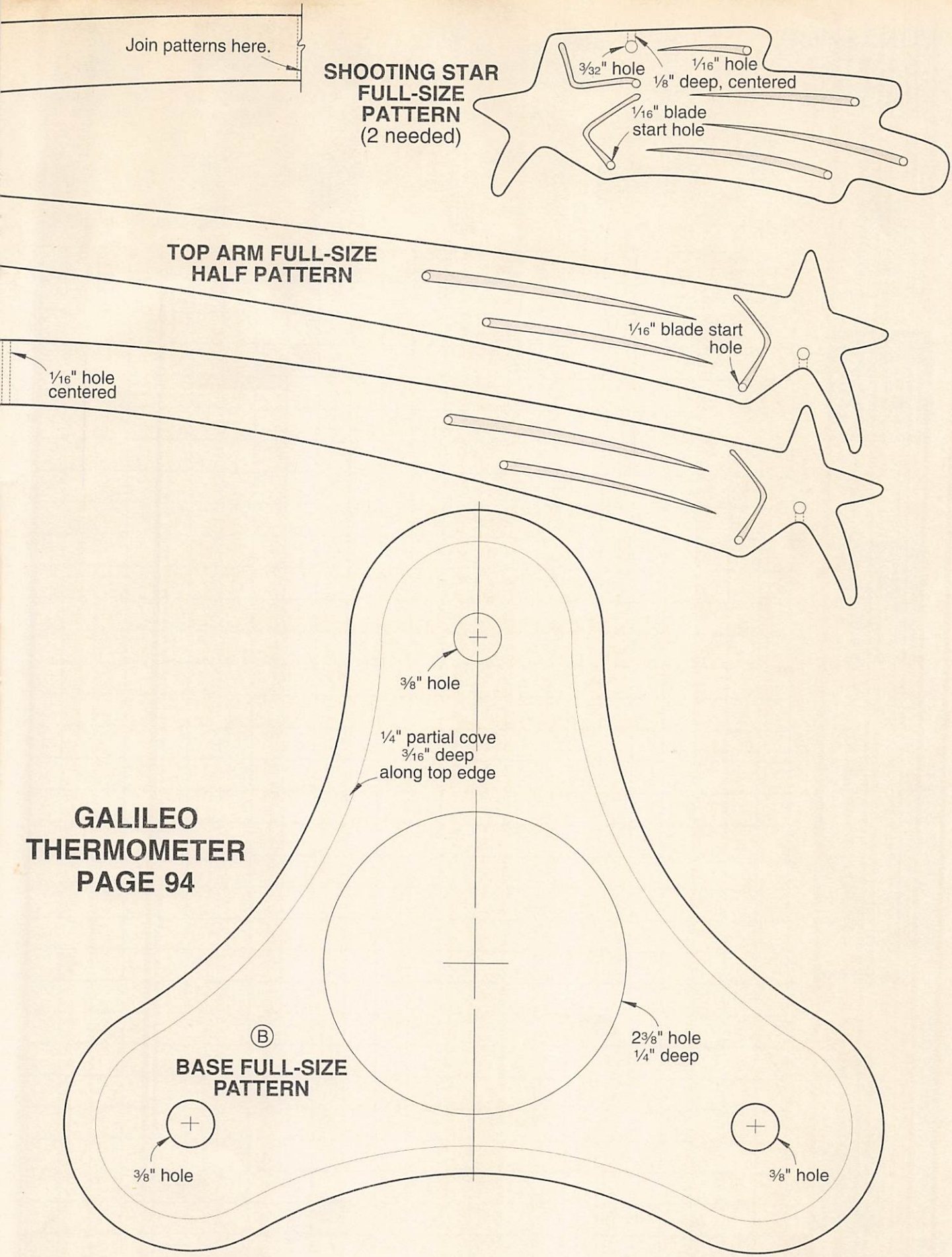


MOBILE SAWING/ROUTING CENTER PAGE 62



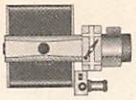


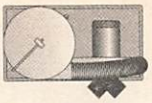
TURN BUTTON FULL-SIZE PATTERN
(2 needed)

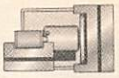

Join patterns here.
SHOOTING STAR
FULL-SIZE
PATTERN
(2 needed)
3/32" hole
1/16" hole
1/8" deep, centered
1/16" blade
start hole
TOP ARM FULL-SIZE
HALF PATTERN
1/16" blade start
hole
1/16" hole
centered
3/8" hole
1/4" partial cove
3/16" deep
along top edge
GALILEO
THERMOMETER
PAGE 94
B
BASE FULL-SIZE
PATTERN
2 3/8" hole
1/4" deep
3/8" hole
3/8" hole

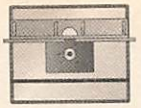
WORKSHOP LAYOUT PAGE 44

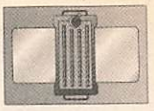
16" Scrollsaw


16" Drum sander

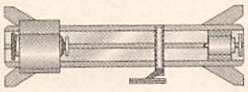

1,100 CFM dust collector


6" Belt, 12" Disc sander

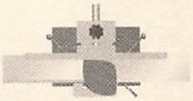

Router/shaper 24x30" table


12" Portable planer on stand

16½" Drill Press


14" Lathe

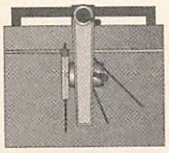
Oscillating spindle sander

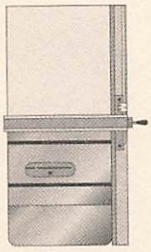

6" Jointer

20-gallon vertical air compressor

10" Mitersaw

14" Bandsaw

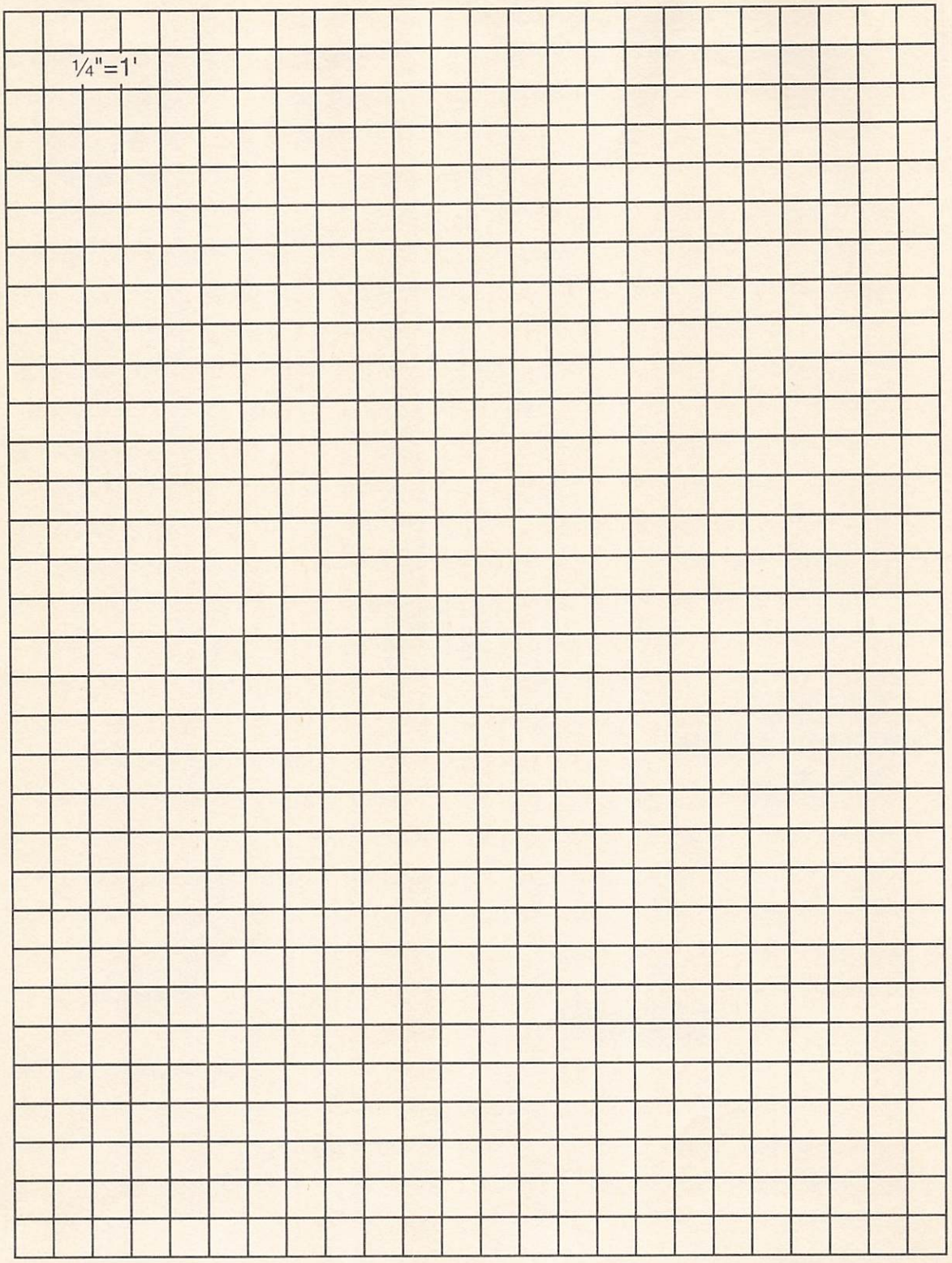

Radial-arm saw


10" Tablesaw with 30" fence

4x8' Plywood sheet

6x96" Board

24x60" Workbench

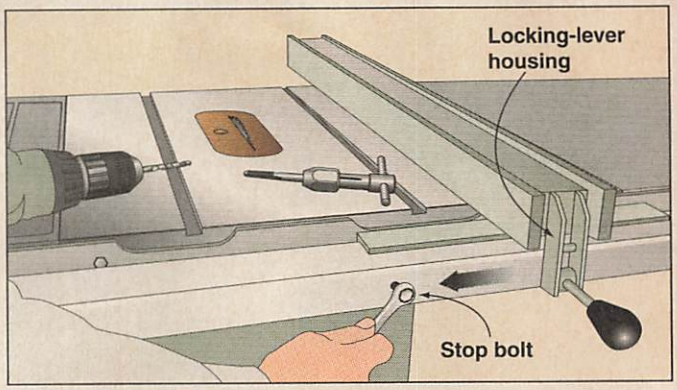


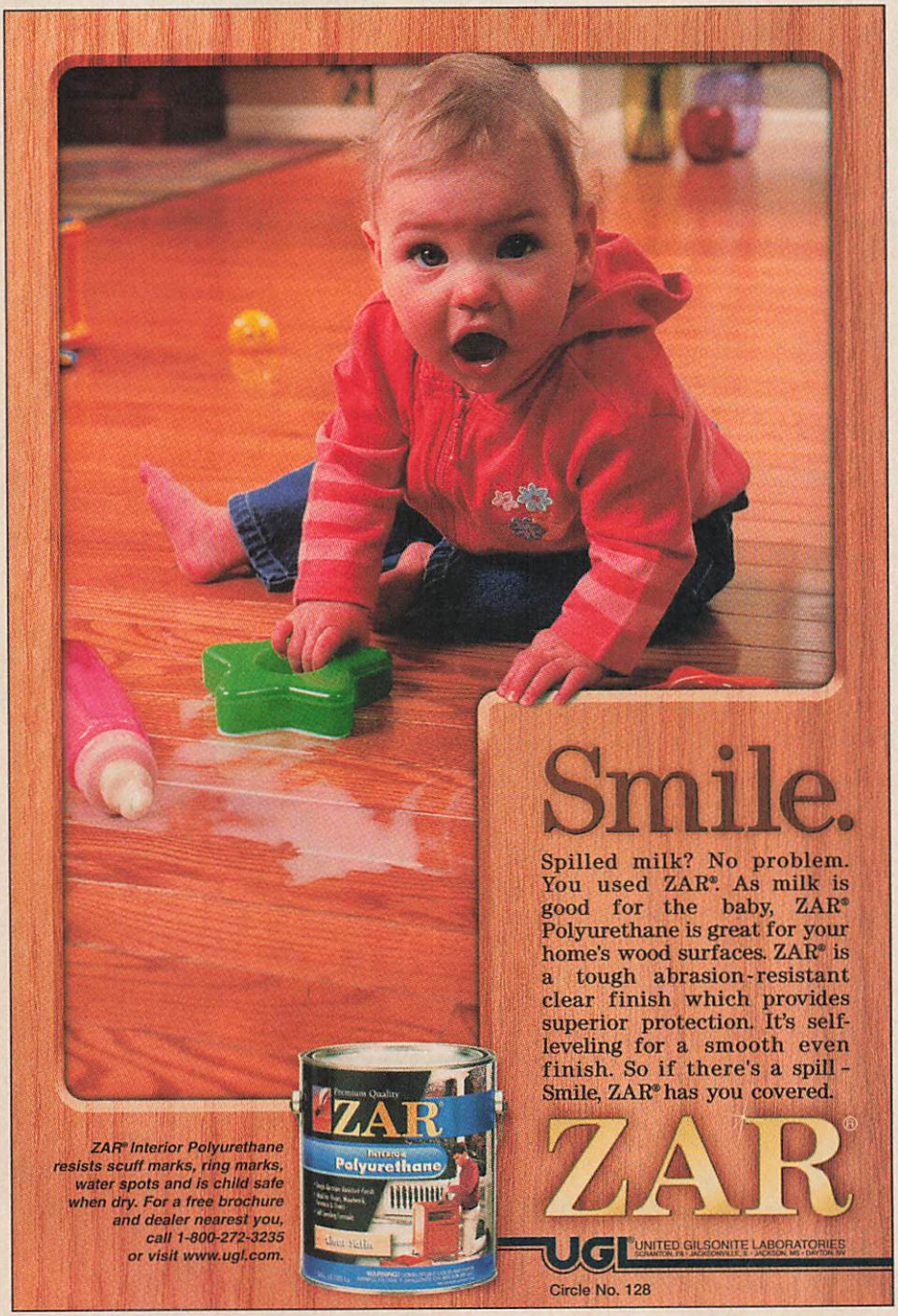
Simple stop keeps fence away from the blade

My tablesaw's rip fence moves so easily along the rail that I wanted to make sure I could never accidentally slide the fence into the raised blade. So, I added a stop bolt to the fence rail that limits the fence's travel.

After setting the fence ⅛" from the blade, I drilled and tapped a hole for a 1"-long stop bolt just left of the fence's locking-lever housing. (You may have to locate your stop bolt on the top of the rail, depending on your fence design.) Finally, I installed the bolt in the hole.

—Luther Woodward, East Liverpool, Ohio



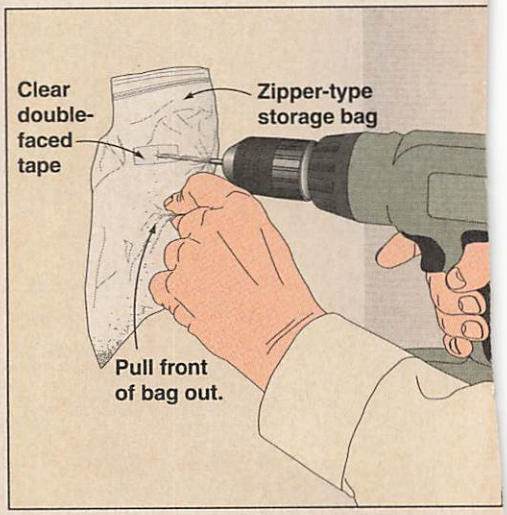


Drilling "clean holes" redefined

To keep crumbs of sawdust, plaster, or drywall from getting down into the carpet when drilling holes for a built-in project, here's a technique that minimizes the mess. After marking the hole location on the wall, place a piece of clear double-faced tape over the mark. Now, stick a zipper-type storage or sandwich bag to the tape, about two-thirds up the bag.

Grab only the outside layer of the bag and pull it out gently as you drill through the bag into the workpiece. Once the bit pierces the bag, the outside layer will want to "climb" the bit, opening the inside of the bag (you may need to help it a little by tugging on it). The crumbs drop harmlessly into the bottom of the bag, which you can zip up and drop in the garbage after removing it from the workpiece.

—Chuck Hedlund,
WOOD® magazine master craftsman

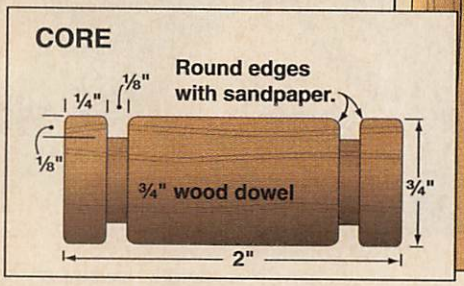


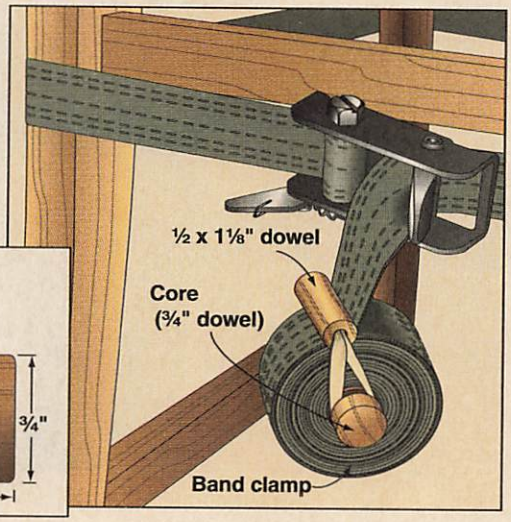
Taming the unruly band clamp

I got tired of finding my band clamps all balled up in a drawer, so I devised these ultra-simple holders to keep them in order. Using a parting tool, I turned 1/8×1/8" grooves in a 2"-long 3/4" dowel, where shown in the drawing, *below*. Next, I cut a 1/2" dowel to 1 1/8" long, bored a 3/16" hole through its center, and threaded a rubber band through the hole.

To store my clamps, I wrap the loose end of the strap around the 3/4" dowel "core," and then secure it with the rubber band and small dowel. When I need to use the clamps, I just unroll as much as I need. If you ever use those ratcheting tie-down straps for your truck or trailer, you can use the same method, but you may need to lengthen the "core" dowel to suit wider straps.

—*Marc Phillips, Warner Robins, Ga.*





Belt-sand small pieces without "filing" your nails

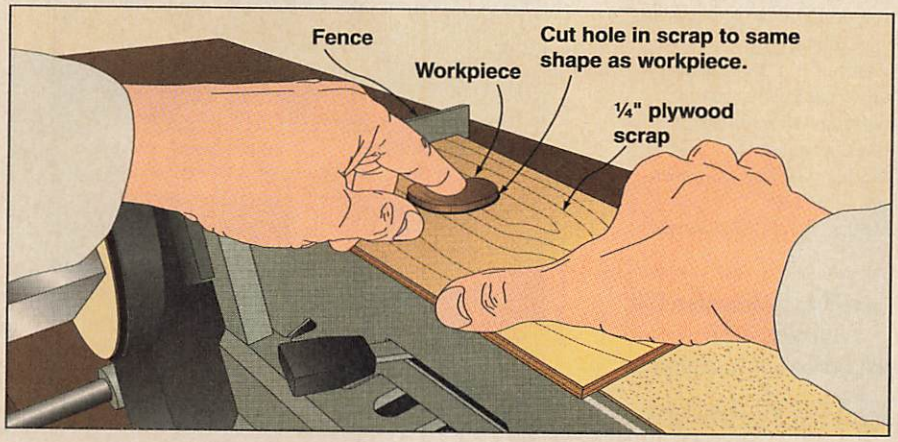
While making the snowman intarsia project in *WOOD®* magazine issue 75, I used my benchtop belt sander to bring some of the pieces to proper thickness. But some of those small pieces put the tips of my fingers dangerously close to the abrasive.

After some experimentation, I found an easy way to sand those small parts. First, scrollsaw a cutout to the same shape but slightly larger than the piece to be sanded in a scrap of 1/4" plywood. With the plywood "mask" placed gently against the abrasive and tight against the sander's fence, insert the workpiece into the cutout, as shown at *right*, and carefully sand to the desired thickness.

The concept works equally well for sanding small parts with your random-orbit sander. In this case, though, you'd place the mask on your benchtop, and sand the top of the workpiece.

—*Dave Edwards, Chattanooga, Tenn.*

Continued on page 28



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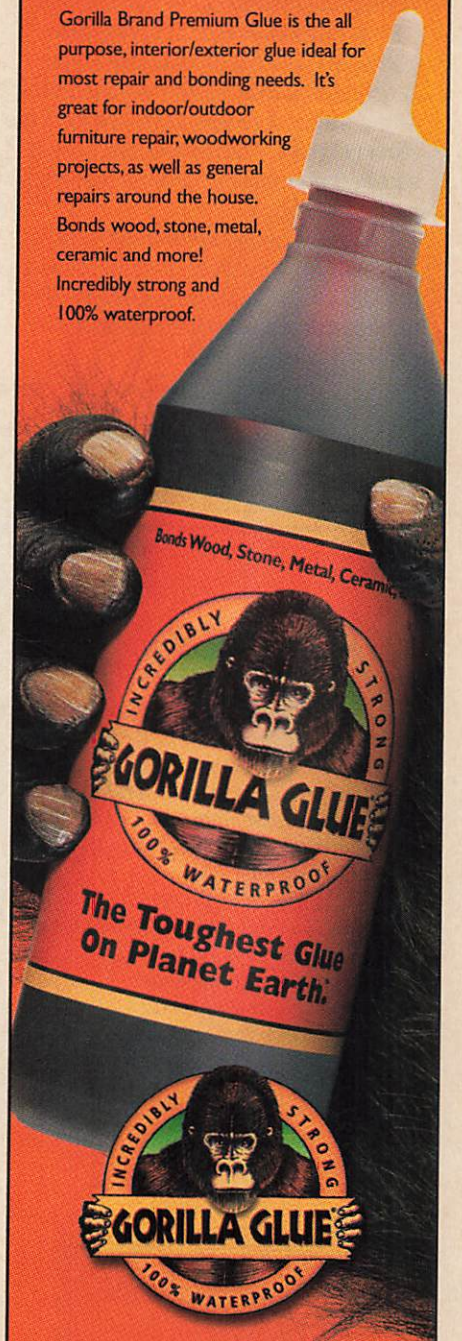

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Pin down those small pieces for safety

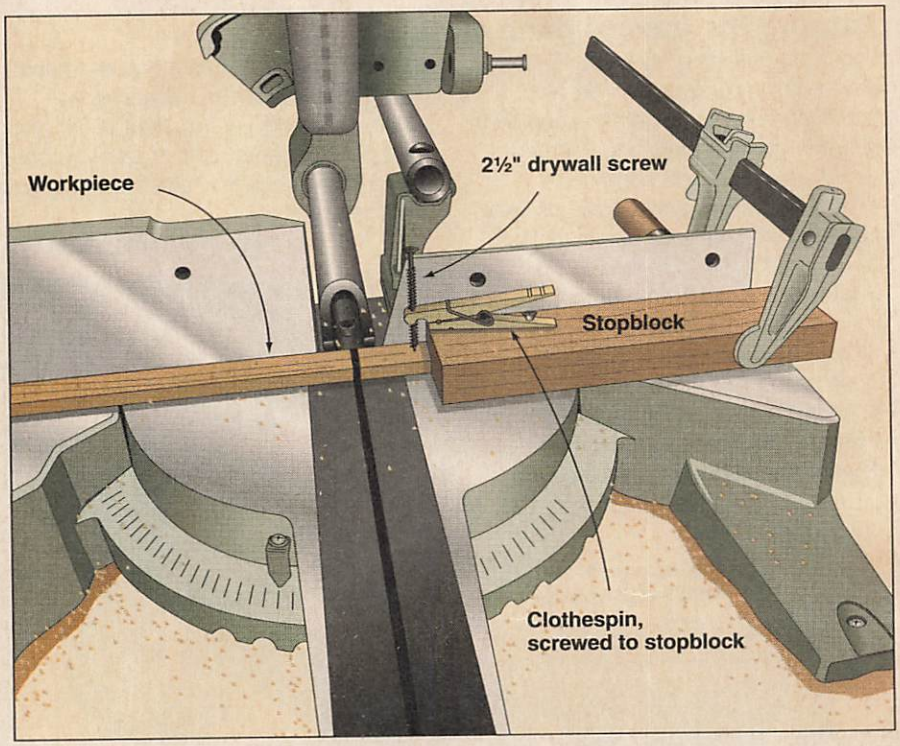
As a woodturner, I make segmented turnings almost exclusively. I cut many of those segments on a compound mitersaw. The thing is, the spinning blade can suck a small piece right back into the teeth and send it sailing around the shop. To prevent that, I made the small-parts hold-down, shown at right.

First, I disassembled a spring-type clothespin and cut off one jaw. I then attached that to a scrapwood stopblock with a single drywall screw. Through the remaining jaw, I drove another drywall screw, then reassembled the clothespin on the stopblock.

The spring pressure and the point of the jaw screw provides enough grip to hold the cutoff in place. If I need a little more tension, I simply drive the jaw screw in a little farther.

—Bob Uding, Homosassa Springs, Fla.

Continued on page 30



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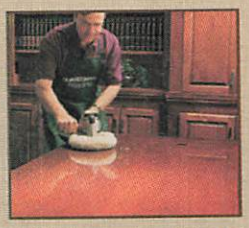

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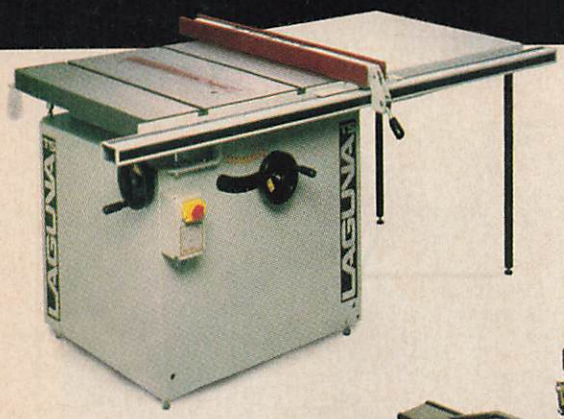

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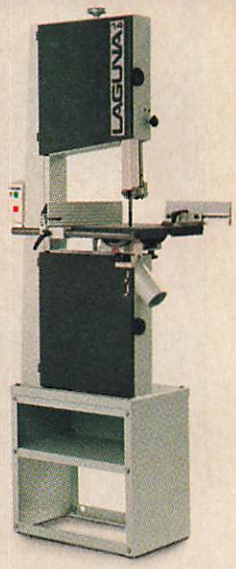

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shop tips

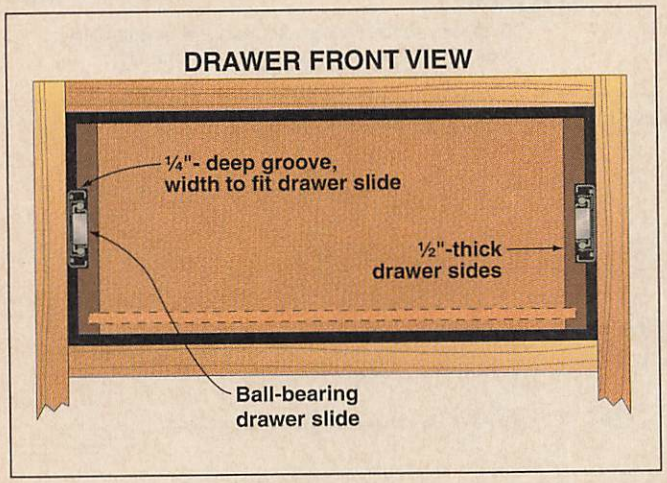
Squeeze more room into your drawers

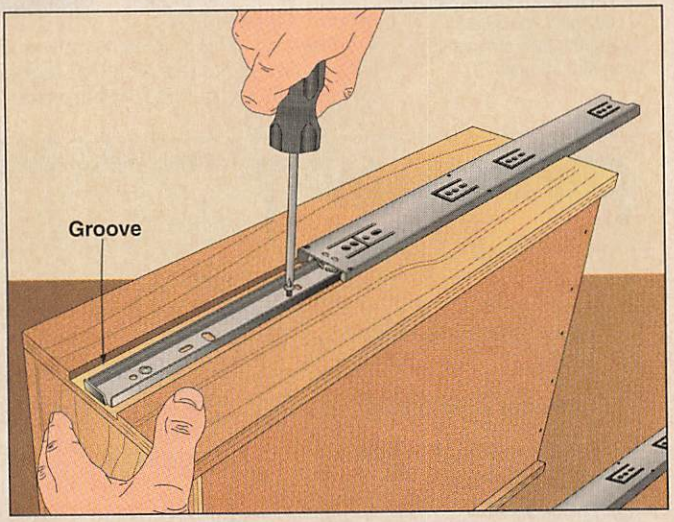
I like to use ball-bearing drawer slides in my cabinet projects because of their super-smooth operation. However, those slides take up space outside the drawer that could be used to expand the size of the drawer.

I put some of that interior room into the drawer by recessing the slides in ¼" grooves on both drawer sides, as shown *below*. That gains me ½" of width in each drawer. I make the grooves about ⅛" wider than the female part of the slide that mounts to the inside of the cabinet. The process works with any drawer side at least ½" thick.

As a timesaving bonus, I no longer have to measure and mark the location of each slide on the drawer. I simply eyeball the slide in the center of the groove, and move the female part out of the way just far enough to drive the first two screws. Then, I remove the female part completely, and drive the rest of the mounting screws.

—Edwin Hackelman, Omaha, Neb.





Shift wheel-making into high gear

I was determined to rout a profile around a 2" disk, but equally insistent on keeping all of my fingers firmly attached. So I devised a jig that holds the disk and also has a platform that steadies the router when using piloted bits. I routed an ogee, but you could use a round-over bit and this approach to make wood wheels.

Here's how to build the jig for yourself: Center a 4"-diameter hole in a square piece of ¾" plywood. The drawing, *below*, gives you all the construction details for the support platform, and how you attach the plywood square to it.

To use the jig, clamp its cleat into your vise, and apply a piece of double-faced tape to the jig's hardwood center post to keep the disk from spinning. Secure the disk with a machine screw, and adust your router's depth of cut to produce the profile you want.

—*Clifford Loiselle, Largo, Fla.*

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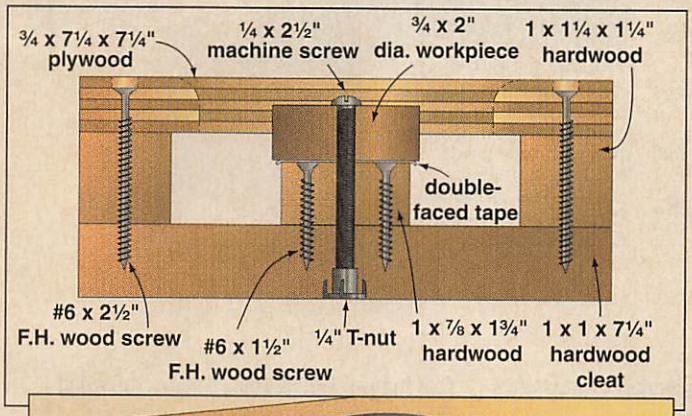

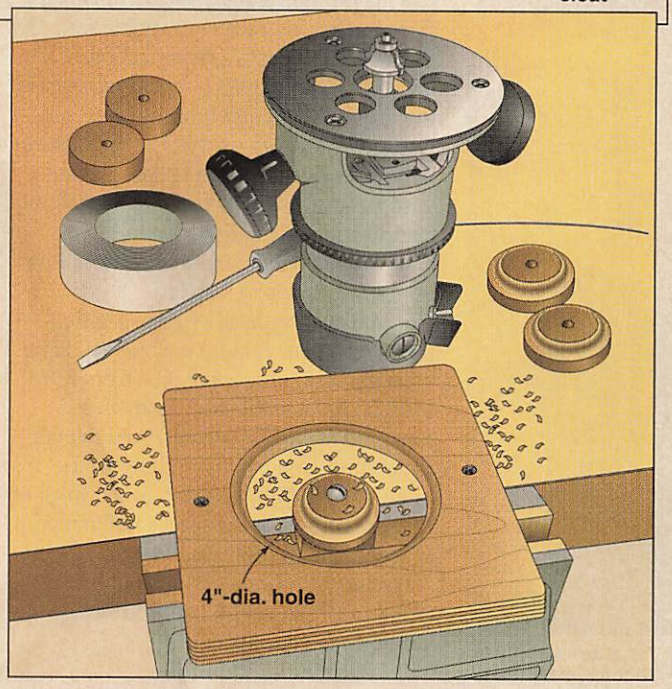

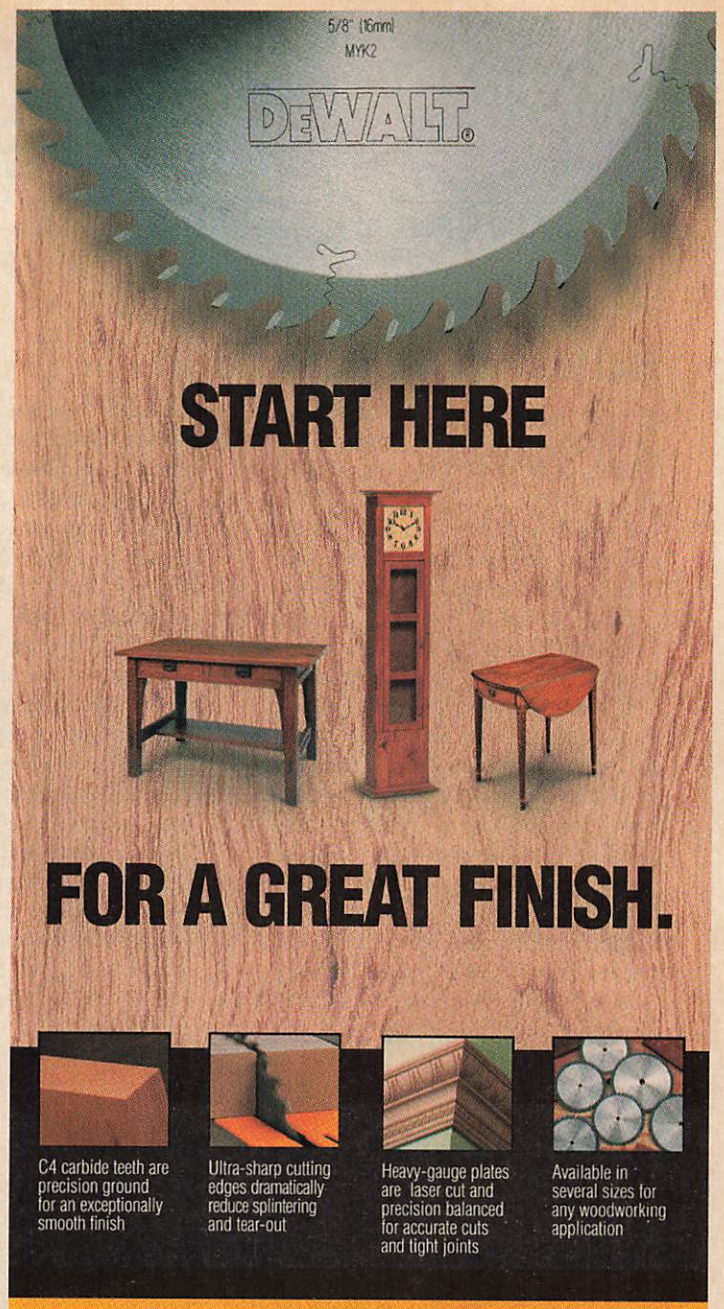

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short cuts

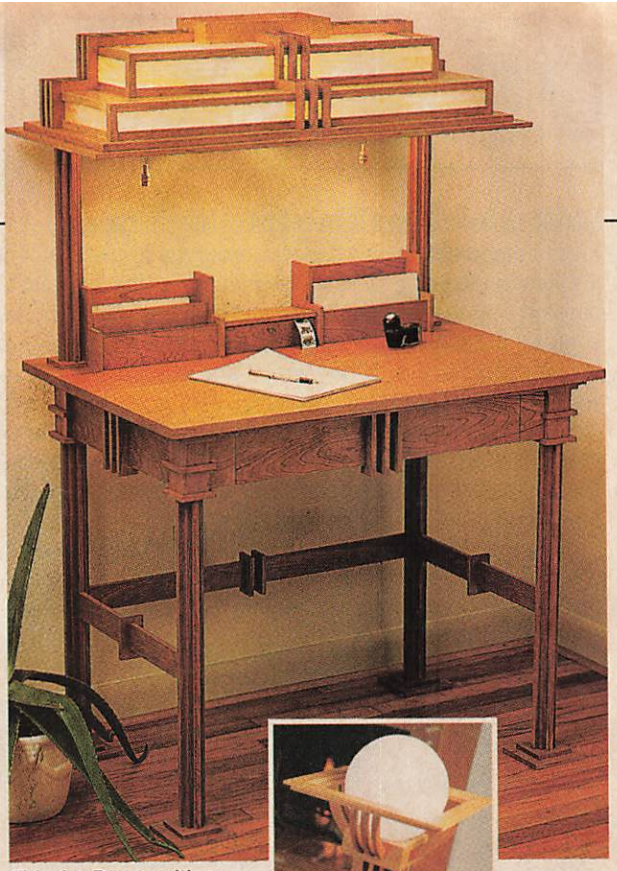
News and notes from the woodworking world

Building a brighter world

While most professional woodworkers specialize in furniture or cabinetry, Charles Lutkus of Dallas, Texas, chose an often overlooked area—lighting. His line includes floor and desk lamps, wall and ceiling fixtures, and a desk that features built-in overhead lighting. All are executed in the Arts and Crafts or Art Deco styles and made from cherry because of its strength, fine end grain, and rich color.

In addition, many of Charles' creations employ art glass to complement the wood and serve as a shade. Dowels and biscuits hold parts together, along with brass hardware. Charles finishes his pieces with clear satin urethane that shows off the cherry while cutting back on distracting glare from the light source.

Selecting lighting as his forte did not come without its challenges. "Dealing with the numerous standards and restrictions laid down by Underwriters' Laboratories proved to be a major hassle, as well as costly," says Charles. "When I started in 1996, the standards were not friendly to wooden light designs. They've since improved. On top of that, I pay $2,000 each year to be registered and updated on the lighting standard changes. Then, every time I create a new design, inspectors pay me a visit and charge an additional $100 to look it over. Develop 10 designs over one year and the costs add up." For more on his unique work, call 972/231-9865 and ask for a brochure.



This Art Deco writing desk (*above*) by Charles Lutkus incorporates overhead lighting with two pull-operated fixtures. It sells for $5,100. His tabletop torchère (*right*) bears a $1,500 price tag.

History-making woodworking

There are your cut-and-dried furniture commissions, and then there are hugely rare and significant furniture commissions that few pro craftsmen ever see.

Photograph: Glade Bilby

Greg Arceneaux's table and chairs, modeled after those of Louisiana Purchase fame, can be found in the Sala Capitular room at the Cabildo in New Orleans' French Quarter.

Covington, Louisiana, master craftsman Greg Arceneaux ranks among the few. His commission: Create a reproduction of the 42"× 15' table on which representatives of the United States and France signed the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 at the Cabildo in New Orleans' French Quarter, along with a complement of historically faithful chairs. The commission stemmed from Greg's involvement in the reconstruction of the fire-damaged Cabildo.

Going only by handwritten specifications from 18th-century documents, Greg went to work, fashioning the chairs from local pecan, and the table from wide imported mahogany planks. And though the commission paid Greg only a little more than $5,000 (he refers to the work as a "labor of love"), the pieces will remain in the public eye for generations.

For more on Greg's work, call him at 985/893-8782, or visit his Web site at www.gregarceneaux.com.

These chairs are animals

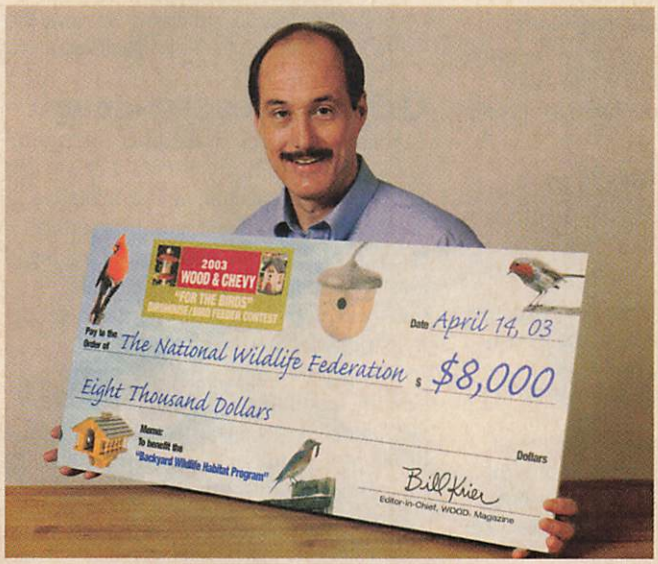
New Hampshire craftsman Jeff Cooper describes himself as a "designer of sculptural furnishings in wood," and for good reason. While almost everything he creates serves a functional need, such as a table, chair, or lamp, he doesn't stop there. Jeff applies his artistry to add a whimsical touch by carving, sanding, and finishing functional forms to look like animals. To date, he has made more than 100 such sculptural pieces, using maple, walnut, mahogany, and other woods that suit the need. See more of Jeff's work at www.cooperwoodsculptor.com.

Photograph: Hall Pucket

Jeff Cooper's animal-like chairs sell for $1,500 each, and take 10 working days to complete. His complementary tables go for $800 to $1,500.

Birds declared big winners

Why are all the birdies on Jaybird Street going tweet, tweet, tweet? That's easy. They just found out about the $8,000 check going to the National Wildlife Federation's "Backyard Habitat" program, courtesy of readers who participated in the *WOOD®* and Chevy "For the Birds" birdhouse/bird feeder contest. The money was raised by auctioning contest entries, 271 in all. A heartfelt thanks to those woodworkers who submitted entries, and to those who purchased them.



Editor-in-Chief Bill Krier turned over $8,000 to the National Wildlife Federation for its special program for improving the neighborhood environments where birds live.

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3 hot new portable planers

One seeks high performance, one goes for bottom dollar, and the other falls in between.

Since our last review of portable planers (*WOOD*® magazine, issue 148), we've put a lot of wood through three models that were still on the drawing board at the time of that review. The results of these latest trials surprised us in a couple of ways, and when the dust and chips settled, we had a new Top Tool to recommend. Here's how the DeWalt DW735, Grizzly G0505, and Shop Fox W1675 fared.

DeWalt's bold innovation

The most eye-popping of the three is DeWalt's DW735 13" Benchtop Planer (at 92 pounds, it pushes the limits of "portable"). For starters, it doesn't look like any other portable planer on the market. In fact, it functions more like a small stationary planer.

The DW735 (shown *above*) combines two features we praised in our earlier test—dual feed speeds and fan-assisted chip removal—with another not found on any other portable planer: a three-knife cutterhead. This extra knife instantly improves the smoothness of the cut, boosting the number of cuts per inch by 50 percent. The new cutterhead uses self-indexing, double-edged disposable knives—a welcome change from the old single-edge resharpenable blades that require a gauge to set them.

DeWalt engineers probably could have skipped the two-speed stock-feed rate because the surface smoothness created at "dimensioning" rate (96 cuts per inch) is virtually indistinguishable from that at the "finishing" feed rate (179 cuts per inch).

You won't find a cutterhead-locking lever or extension tables on this machine (the table by itself is nearly 20" long), but you won't need either to reduce snipe. An automatic cutterhead lock stabilizes the cutterhead so well that we measured .000" snipe at a 1/16" cut in both oak and pine. It wasn't until we reached a 5/32" depth of cut that snipe became an objectionable .003" deep (both oak and pine).

If the $480 price tag is just too much for you, DeWalt put the same three-knife cutterhead (but 1/2" shorter) and a few cosmetic changes on its old DW733 12½" planer, and renamed it the DW734. It sells for $380.

DeWalt DW735, $480
www.dewalt.com, 800/433-9258

High points
- Lots of power. It bulldozed through 7"-wide red oak (1/16"-deep cut at "dimensioning" speed) without bogging, divoting, or sniping.
- Automatic cutterhead lock reduces snipe to almost nothing.
- Fan-assisted chip removal works well. Used with a dust collector, less than a cup of chips escaped while planing 180' of 7"-wide oak. Optional "half-bag" system connects directly to a trash can.
- Depth-of-cut gauge runs the length of the cutterhead, so you can measure stock removal anywhere under the cutterhead housing.
- Three-knife cutterhead delivers a super-smooth surface.
- Ample room provided for changing the double-edged disposable knives. Onboard storage of knife-changing tool.

Low points
- It's heavy, weighing 92 lbs.
- At 108 dB, it's louder than any other portable planer we've tested.

More points
- It cuts smoother, and with less snipe, than even the Delta 22-580, the best performer in our most recent test. For this reason, we crown the DW735 as the new Top Tool in portable planers.

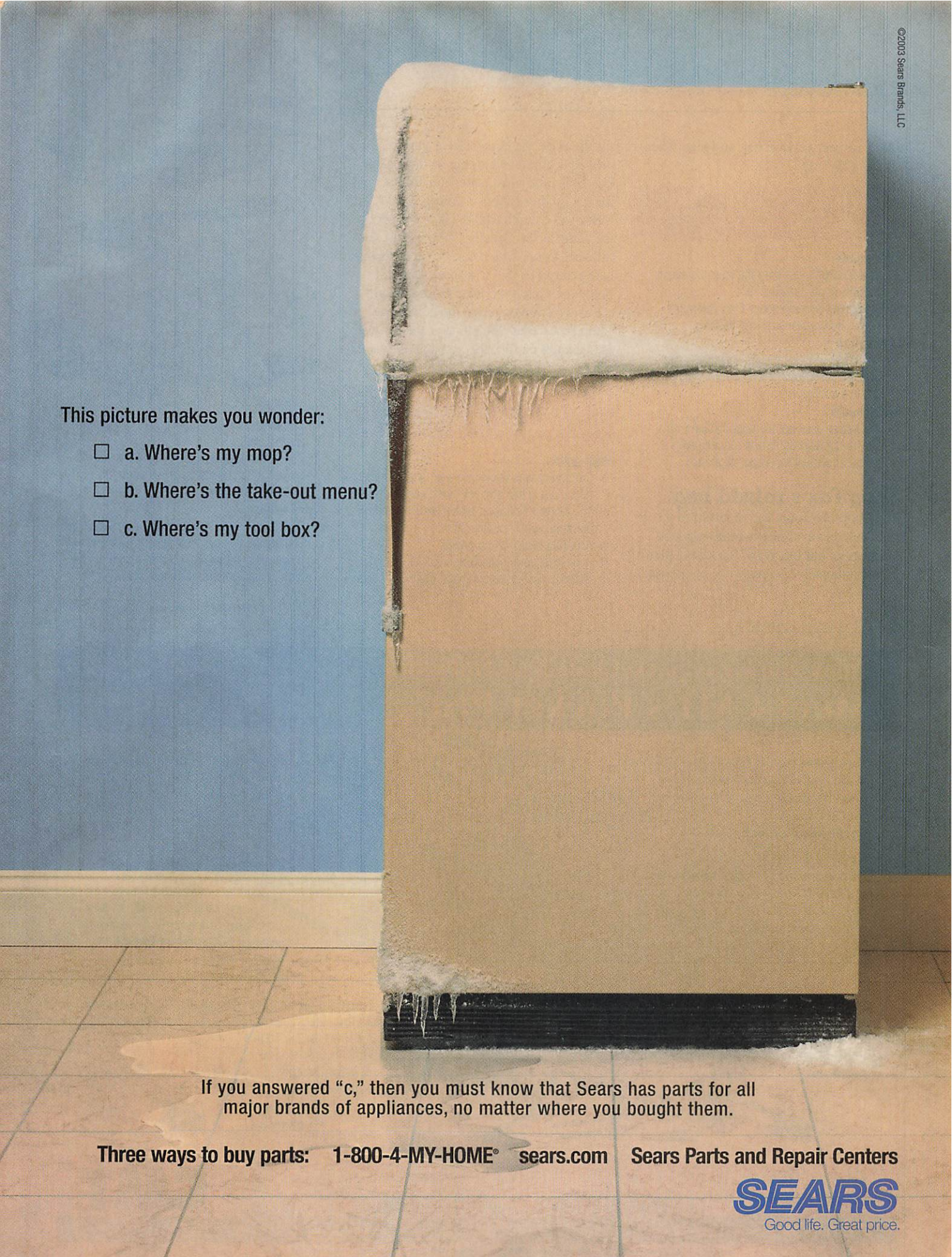
Grizzly goes low-dough

At the opposite end of the price spectrum, you'll find the Grizzly G0505. For a 12½"-capacity machine under $200, we didn't expect too much, and from a features standpoint, we were right. Lacking a cutterhead lock, depth-of-cut scale, thickness stops, and dust-collection hood, it's strictly a bare-bones planer.

The surprise came when we started sending wood through the machine. The G0505 delivers a cut smoother than half of the planers in our last planer test, including Grizzly's other portables.

When snipe gets deeper than about .003", the only way to get rid of it is to cut it off, and the G0505 requires that action, with snipe depths averaging .005" and

Continued on page 36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.006", respectively, in oak and pine when taking a 1/16" cut.

Grizzly G0505, $195
www.grizzly.com, 800/523-4777

High points
- It's priced $75 less than the least expensive portable in our previous test.
- Cut quality is much better than you might expect from a planer priced this low.

Low points
- No cutterhead lock results in serious snipe.
- No dust-collection hood available, even as an optional accessory.

More points
- This planer uses double-edged knives, but they're not disposable and require using a gauge (provided) for proper alignment.

Shop Fox's mixed bag

The Shop Fox tools we've tested in the past have always shown some spark of innovation, but the W1675 portable planer, unfortunately, is pretty run-of-the-mill for the price. Its depth-of-cut gauge proved accurate; changing its disposable knives is pretty fast, safe, and simple; and the cut quality is above average.

But snipe depth (.004"–.005") is about the same as the Grizzly G0505. And, the thickness stop, which can be set anywhere along the W1675's 6" capacity, didn't hold well enough to keep from slipping when we cranked down the cutterhead. Shop Fox's Phil Spinelli says they'll put a larger knob on the stop so you can crank it tighter and increase its holding power.

Shop Fox W1675, $420
www.shopfox.biz, 800/840-8420

High points
- Cut quality was above average when compared to planers in this and our most recent test.
- The longest extension tables we've seen in a portable planer, totaling 38½".
- Accurate depth-of-cut gauge.
- Knife-changing tools store onboard.
- Includes dust-collection hood that fits 4" hose.

Grizzly G0505

Shop Fox W1675

Low points
- Thickness stop slips when cutterhead is lowered against it.
- Cutterhead locking handle interferes with power switch operation when locked.
- At 93 lbs, it's heavy.

More points
- Cutterhead crank operates like the blade elevation handle on your tablesaw. However, with the planer on a stand, we found it uncomfortably high to use for large thickness changes.

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PORTABLE PLANERS UPDATE: THREE NEW PLANERS HIT THE STREETS

BRAND	MODEL	MOTOR AMP RATING	CUTS PER INCH (1)	MATERIAL FEED RATE (FEET PER MINUTE) (1)	WIDTH (INCHES)	CAPACITY: THICKNESS (INCHES) MINIMUM	CAPACITY: THICKNESS (INCHES) MAXIMUM	CAPACITY: MAX. DEPTH OF CUT (INCHES) 5"-WIDE BOARD	CAPACITY: MAX. DEPTH OF CUT (INCHES) 12"-WIDE BOARD	CONSTRUCTION: TABLE LENGTH WITH EXTENSIONS (INCHES) (2)	CONSTRUCTION: BLADE STYLE (3)	CONSTRUCTION: CUTTERHEAD LOCK (YES/NO)	PERFORMANCE GRADES(4): CUT QUALITY	PERFORMANCE GRADES(4): LACK OF SNIPE	PERFORMANCE GRADES(4): KNIFE-CHANGING EASE	PERFORMANCE GRADES(4): EASE OF RAISING/ LOWERING CUTTERHEAD	PERFORMANCE GRADES(4): SCALE READABILITY	PERFORMANCE GRADES(4): CUTTERHEAD PARALLELISM (FROM FACTORY)	PERFORMANCE GRADES(4): EXTENSION TABLE ALIGNMENT	PERFORMANCE GRADES(4): THICKNESS STOP ACCURACY/ EASE OF USE	PERFORMANCE GRADES(4): DEPTH-OF-CUT GAUGE	PERFORMANCE GRADES(4): NOISE LEVEL (DECIBELS) (5)	ACCESSORIES(6): STANDARD	ACCESSORIES(6): OPTIONAL	CORD LENGTH (FEET)	WARRANTY (YEARS)	COUNTRY OF ASSEMBLY (7)	WEIGHT (POUNDS)	SELLING PRICE (8)
DEWALT	DW735	15	96/179*	26/14*	13	1/8	6	1/8	1/16	19 3/4*	2D	Y	A	A	A	A	B	A	N/A	D	A	108	C, D, P	G, S, X	10 1/2	1	T	92	$480
GRIZZLY	G0505	15	52	32	12 1/2	13/64	6	1/8	1/16	27 3/8	2R	N	B+	D	C	B	B	A	A	N/A	N/A	102	X	S	7	1	C	77	195
SHOP FOX	W1675	15	67	26	13	7/64	6	1/8	1/16	38 1/2	2D	Y	B+	D	B	C	B	A	A-	D	A	106	D, X	S	8	2	T	93	420

NOTES:

1. (*) "Dimensioning" mode/ "finishing" mode
2. (*) No extension tables.
3. (2D) Double-edged disposable
   (2R) Double-edged resharpenable
4. A Excellent
   B Good
   C Average
   D Below average
   N/A Model does not have this feature
5. Measured 12" above table and 24" in front of planer running under no load.
6. (C) Chip deflector
   (D) Dust-collection hood
   (G) Garbage-can adaptor for dust collection
   (P) 4" dust port
   (S) Stand
   (X) Folding extension tables
7. (C) China
   (T) Taiwan
8. Prices current at time of article's production and do not include shipping charges, where applicable.

Product tester: **John Cebuhar**

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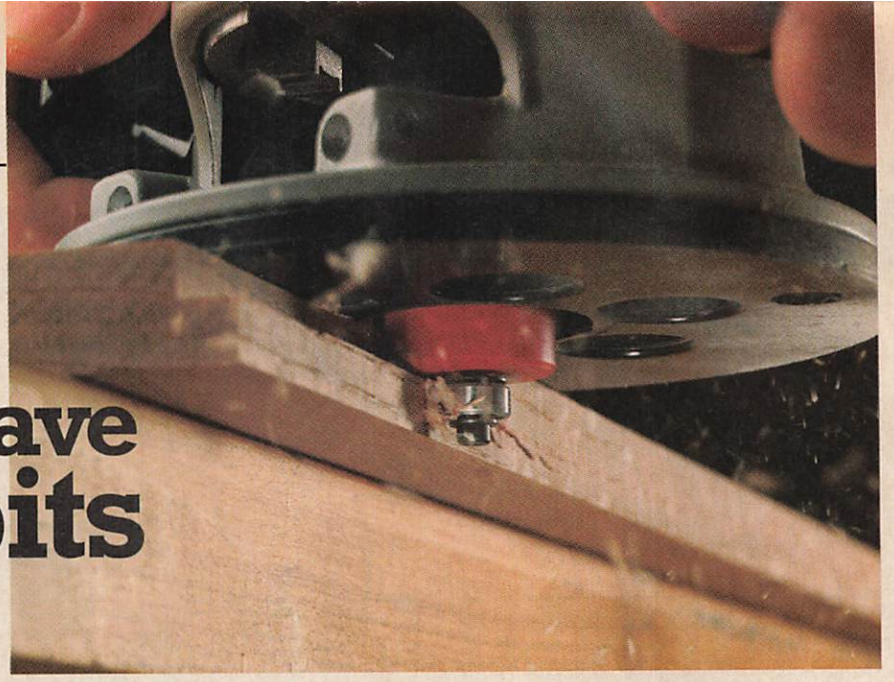

6 must-have router bits

Sure, you can buy a bajillion-bit set, but chances are these half-dozen cutters will do 90 percent of the routing work in your shop.

In the *WOOD*® magazine shop, we have nearly a hundred different router bits to choose from on a daily basis. But in reality, only a handful of them see regular use. Call these bits the "standards," the router bits no woodworker should be without. Regardless of your skill level, these are the six bits we suggest you buy first, and then add others as your skills and budget allow.

Yes, some cuts (such as keyholes) or edge treatments (such as an ogee) would be difficult to do without specialized bits. Buy those when you have a specific need for them.

Incidentally, if your router accepts ½"-shank bits, buy them from the get-go. They cost only a little more than their ¼" cousins, and are less prone to deflection under heavy use.

From the home office, it's the Top Six bit list

⅛" round-over

Hands down, we use this bearing-guided bit the most, primarily for breaking the sharp edges of solid-wood workpieces. The slight round-over softens the edges more uniformly than knocking them down with a sandpaper-wrapped block.

Here's a case where a ¼" shank is perfectly acceptable because the bit removes so little material that it hardly strains. In fact, our ⅛" round-over bit has found a permanent home in a trim router, which accepts only ¼"-shank bits.

¼" round-over

Versatility makes this bit a star performer. It cuts a bullnose (in two passes) in ¾"-thick stock, and works well for shaping trim moldings, which are normally ½" thick. Properly set up in a router table, a ¼" round-over bit can make ½" dowels in any species, or bead the edge of a tabletop. We like to machine ¼" round-overs on the handholds of shop-built jigs and fixtures, making them more comfortable to grip.

½" straight with 1" cutting length

Use this bit in a handheld router for cutting dadoes and slots, or with an offset outfeed fence on your router table to edge-joint boards. We prefer the ½" diameter because we frequently cut dadoes for hardwood plywood when building cases, and two overlapping passes with a ½" bit will form a dado that fits ¾" plywood—actually 23/32" thick—better than a ¾" bit. And, if you rout box joints, ½"-wide fingers look good in ¾" stock.

What about the length? A 1" cutter lets you cut as deep as you're likely to ever need, yet still retracts deep enough into your router base to make shallow dadoes. Longer bits may or may not, depending on the router.

½" flush-trim with 1" cutting length

Solid-wood banding on a plywood shelf stiffens the shelf and hides its ugly edges. Cut the banding oversize, install it, and then trim it with a flush-trim bit to make the joint nearly invisible. Use the same bit and procedure to trim plastic laminate flush after it's installed. We use a flush-trim bit nearly as often for making copies of hard-to-duplicate pieces, such as zero-clearance tablesaw inserts.

45° chamfer

Simple chamfering (cutting a bevel on the edge of a workpiece) makes a good decorative edge treatment for classic furniture styles, such as Shaker and Arts & Crafts. Setup is less finicky than with a round-over bit, and the bearing always guides the bit or workpiece. You can make virtually any size chamfer with one bit—from just breaking an edge to beveling the entire length of a workpiece for a dead-on miter joint—by simply changing the cutting depth.

Continued on page 40

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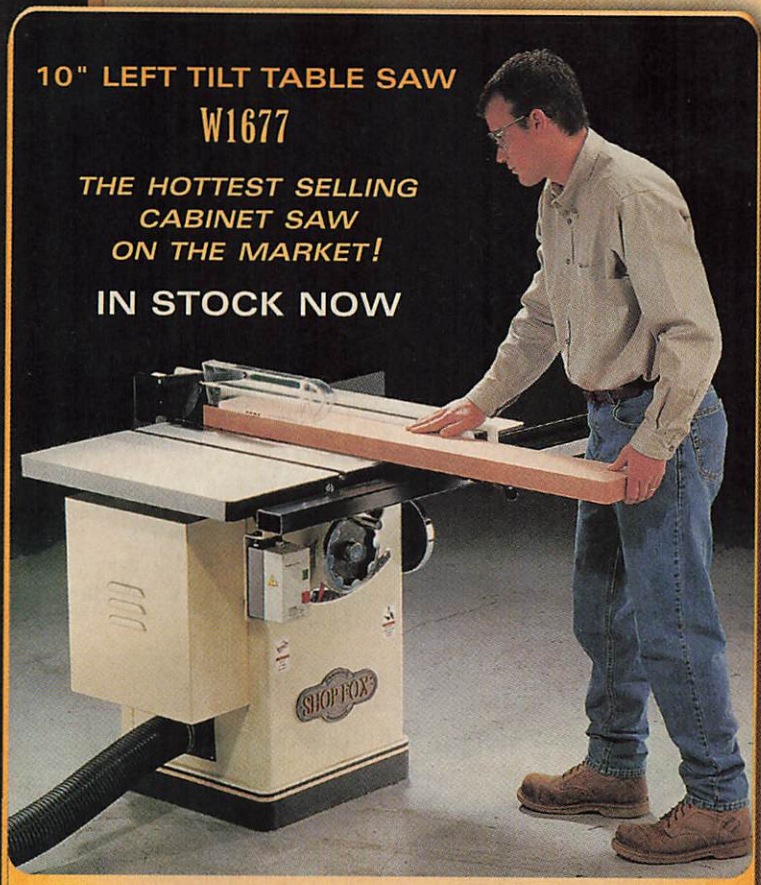

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This saw will definitely take center stage in any shop! Our saws with extension kits, shown on the right, will allow you to cut wide sheet stock all day long without missing a beat! Loaded with features:

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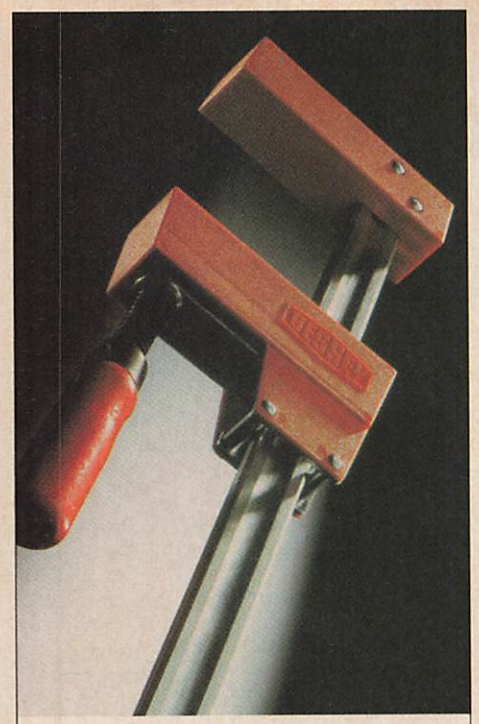

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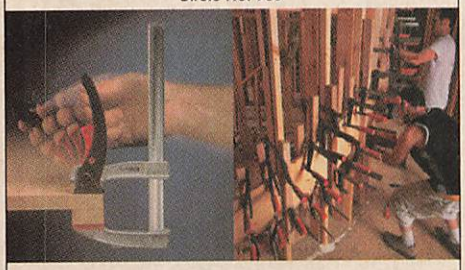

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Rabbeting bit with bearing set

Use this bit wherever you need a rabbet along the edge of a workpiece, such as the art-and-glass area of a picture frame, or the inset back of a bookcase. A rabbeting bit also can create the tongue of a tongue-and-groove joint.

Rabbeting bit sets come with a number of various-size guide bearings for cutting different widths of rabbets. These bearings fit on other bearing-guided bits to expand their versatility, as well. For example, an undersize bearing on a ¼" round-over bit makes it a beading bit.

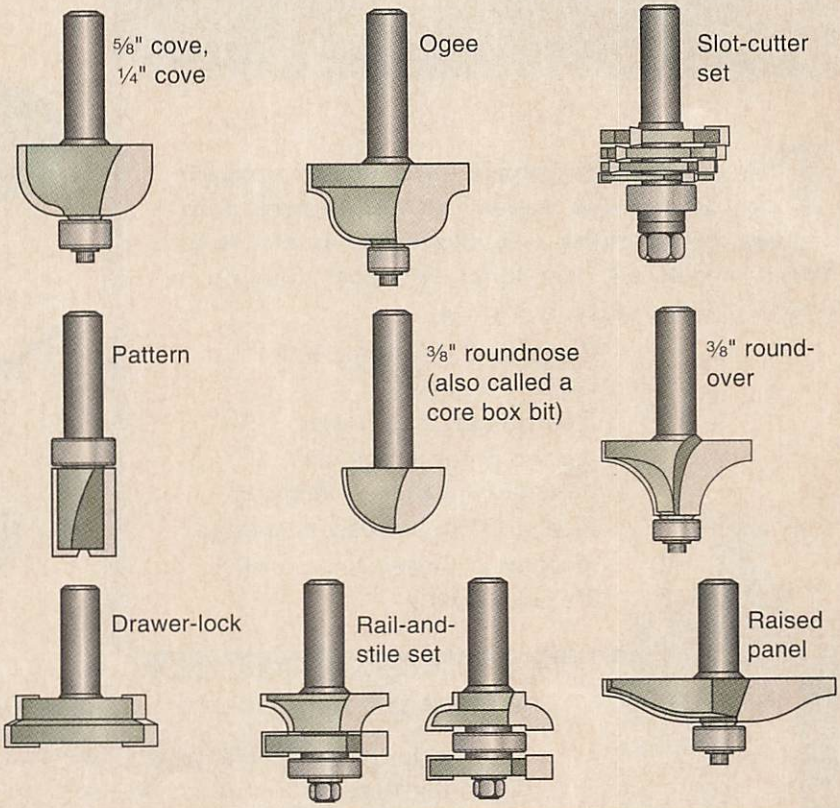
So, should you go with separate bits or sets?

We wish there was a simple answer to that question. Although you can buy mega-sets with all of our recommended bits, no manufacturer packages a set that includes only the six basic bits shown here. We did find several small sets that include four of the six, plus four to ten additional bits. (The missing bits in those smaller sets are the ⅛" and ¼" round-over bits—most bit makers include a ⅜" round-over instead.)

In shopping around, we found we could spend anywhere from $60 to $160 on the six bits individually. The smaller sets, on the other hand, cost about the same or more, but you get the bonus of the extra bits that you may or may not use. Figure the cost per bit of the bonus bits before making your decision. Remember, though, that you'll need to add the cost of the ⅛" and ¼" round-overs to fill out the set.

Flesh out your set

Got more money to spend? Here are the next 10 router bits we advise buying:



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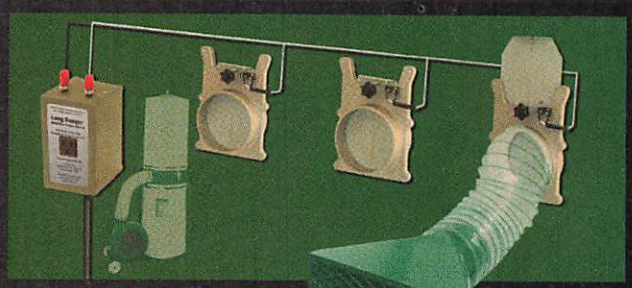

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the other red woods

Spice up your projects with a touch of crimson.

Want to add a splash of color to a project? Then check out these four red-hot exotics. Though pricey, they're available, at least in small sizes, from exotic-hardwood dealers and catalogs. Consider using them for unique small projects or as accents on larger ones.

Redheart (*Erythroxylon* spp.)
This Central American hardwood boasts a bright red color when freshly cut that darkens to deep red over time. The wood features tight, straight grain, making it suitable for turning. It also machines well using carbide-tipped tools, but has a tendency to burn. This wood isn't the easiest to find, and usually sells as turning blanks or in sizes less than 1 board foot. Cost, in spite of the wood's relative scarcity, runs about $10 per board foot.

Chakte kok (*Sickingia salvadorensis*)
Also often referred to as redheart, this more-widely-available wood hails from Central America, as well. Its color ranges from pinkish to bright red, with streaks of purple and brown. Maintaining the wood's vivid colors requires a finish that protects against ultraviolet light, or the wood will fade to a golden tan. Common uses for chakte kok include turning, marquetry, and inlay. Again, expect to pay $10 (or more) per board foot.

Bloodwood (*Brosimum paraense*)
This hard, heavy wood goes by several other names, including cardinalwood and satine. Many describe its color as "strawberry" red, with streaks of gold. Over time, it darkens to reddish-brown. Growing in Central and South America, you may find it difficult to buy, though 1–2' pieces known as "shorts" are available. Expect to pay about $12–$15 per board foot. Bloodwood demands sharp tools and light passes, but yields high luster.

Padauk (*Pterocarpus soyauxii*)
The most common among our crimson collection, African padauk comes in 4/4 and 8/4 thicknesses, lengths up to 8', and sells for $7–$9 per board foot. It starts out red-orange, and darkens to brown over time. See issue 148, page 42, to learn more about this species.

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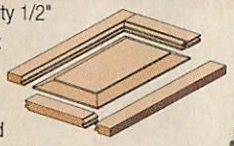


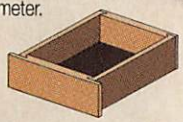
This professional quality 1/2" shank set contains six carbide tipped bits needed for fine cabinet making, raised panel doors, kitchen table top and drawer assembly. Designed for up to 3/4" wood thickness.

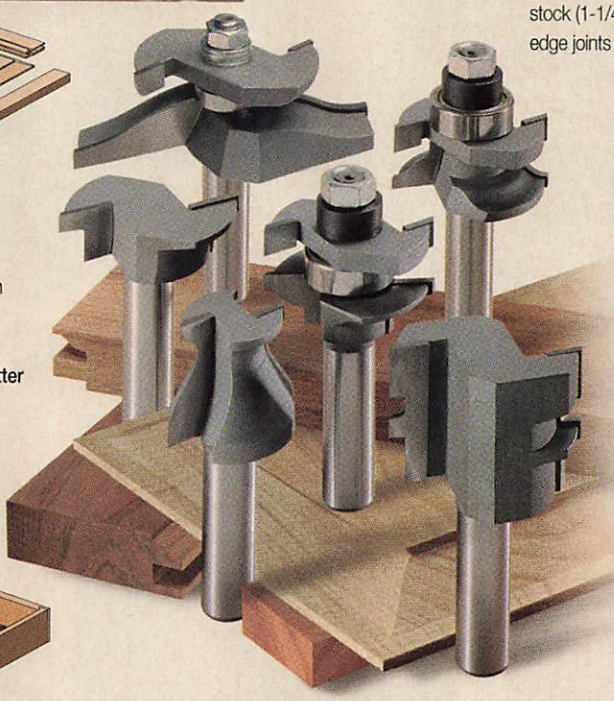
1. The **Ogee Raised Panel** bit (in the Standard Set) puts a classic ogee edge on the free floating central panel in your door. 2-3/4" large diameter.

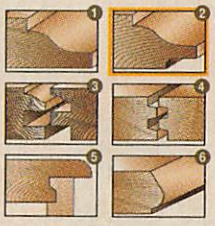
2. The **Ogee Raised Panel with Undercutter** (in the Undercutter Set *ONLY*) produces a flush or reduced upper panel profile. 3-1/8" large diameter.

3. Our **Matched Rail and Stile** set creates precisely mated rails and stiles that form an extremely durable, classic frame for your door. 1-5/8" large diameter.

4. Use the **Glue Joint** bit when the central panel needs to be wider than your stock. Rout two or more pieces of stock (1-1/4" max.) with reverse cut edge joints to reach the required width. 1-3/4" large diameter.







5. The **Drawer Lock** bit creates a strong joint that fits precisely because one bit makes the cut in both the drawer front and the drawer side. 1-3/4" large diameter.

6. The **Round Over & Ogee Door Lip** bit finishes your door edge professionally in one pass.

All bits are intended for use in a router table only.

#1453 6 Piece Undercutter Set $135.95
#1452 6 Piece Standard Set $114.95

Raised Panel Instructional Video

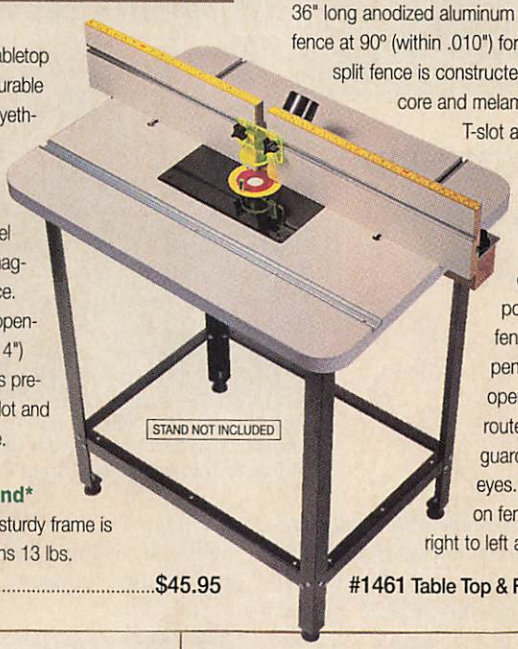
Watch a woodworking professional make a raised panel, rail and stile frame, and other types of cabinet doors. 40 minutes of instruction.

#1438 List $19.95.....**$9.95**

Router Table Top and Fence Special

The Table Top

24" x 32", heavy 1-3/8" tabletop has a sturdy MDF core, durable melamine surface and polyethlene edges. A 12" x 9" router insert with guide pin is premounted. Hex head adjusting screws level insert to top while small magnets hold the insert in place. Removable rings allow 3 openings (1-3/16", 2-5/8", and 4") that fits most bits. Includes pre-installed aluminum Miter slot and two T-Track slots for fence.



Optional Router Stand*

Available individually, this sturdy frame is 27" x 19" x 33" and weighs 13 lbs.

#1462 Reg. $70.....**$45.95**

The Router Fence

36" long anodized aluminum angle keeps the fence at 90º (within .010") for accuracy. The 6" split fence is constructed with an MDF core and melamine surface. The T-slot allows attachment of featherboards or jigs to the fence. The split fence includes a dust collection port. T-slot mounted fence adjusts independently and varies openings around the router bit. Plastic safety guard helps protect eyes. Measuring tape on fence reads both right to left and left to right.

#1461 Table Top & Fence....$189.95

66 Piece Router Bit Set

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NEW! Improved Storage Box can be wall mounted.

Includes these carbide tipped bits: 8 Straight, 5 Dovetail, 6 Round Over, 6 Cove, 4 Chamfer, 3 Round Nose, 3 Hinge Mortising, Bevel, Bevel Trim, Cove Sign Lettering, Panel Pilot, 2 Roman Ogee, Multi Bead/Reed Bit, 2 Slot Cutter, Flat Bottom Sign Lettering, Flat Bottom Round Over, Double Fillet & Cove, Double Cove & Bead, Double Round Over, Rabbeting, Keyhole, Dish Cutter, Ogee Filet, Groove Forming Classical, Point Cutting Round Over, 2 Flush Trim, 3 Core Box, Classical Bit, 3 V-Groove, 2 Edge Beading, 3 bearings and an allen wrench.

#1459 1/4" shank set.....$189.95
#1460 1/2" shank set.....$189.95

Raised Panel Door Sets

Making raised panel doors only? These carbide tipped sets include a cove raised panel router bit with ball bearing and an ogee reversible combo rail and stile bit.

#1301 1/4" shank 2" LD Set $69.95
#1302 1/2" shank 3-1/2" LD Set ..$79.95

Router Collet Extension

Give your 1/2" shank router bits an additional 2-1/4" when you extend your router bit through the router table top with our router collet extension. The router collet extension makes it possible to use all diameter of bits safely. Instructions included.

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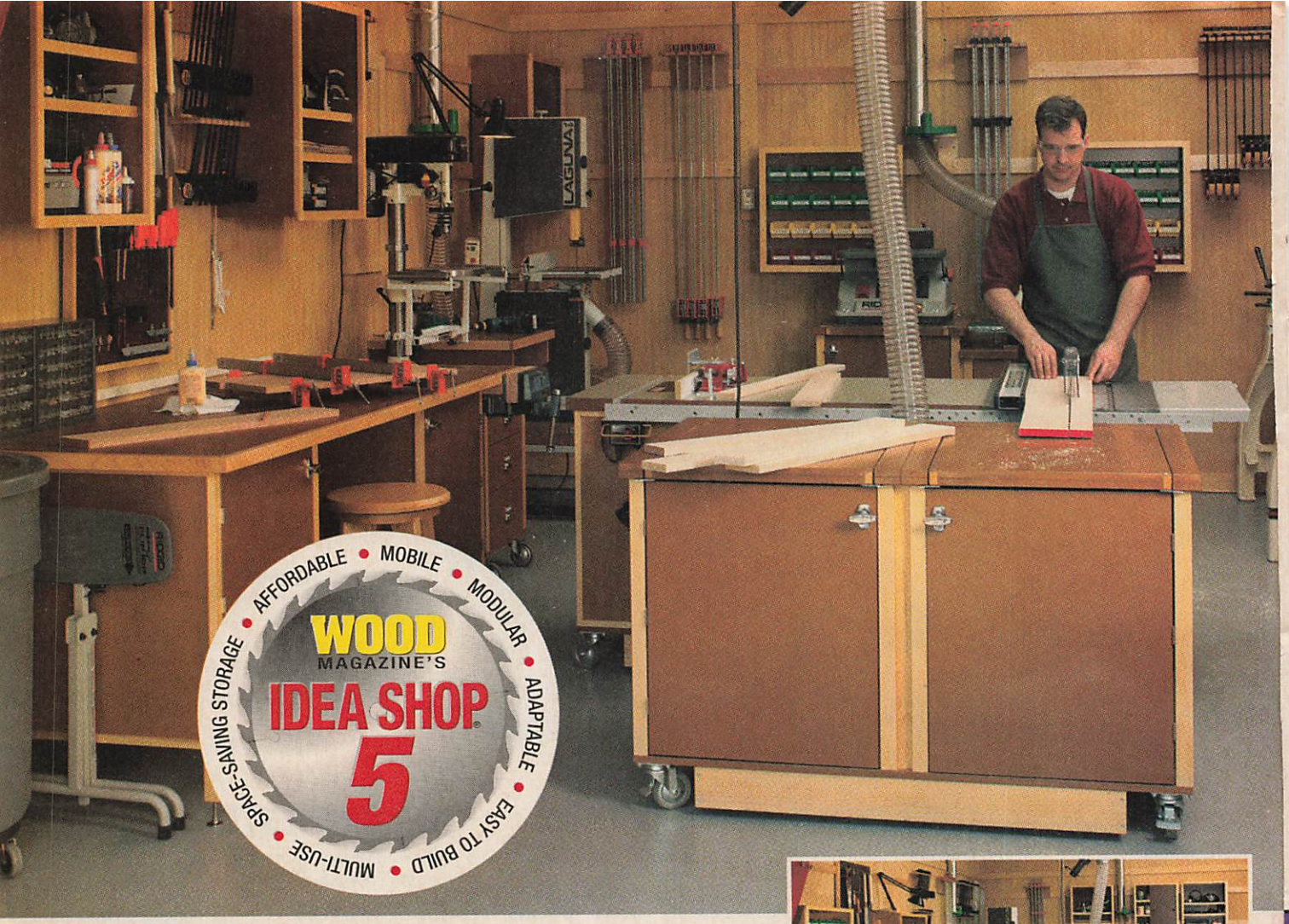
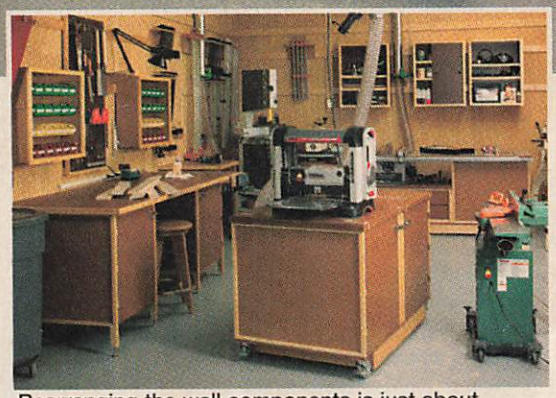


The challenge: Create a one-car-garage shop equipped with loads of tools and lots of smart storage at an affordable price. The result:

Idea Shop 5



Rearranging the wall components is just about effortless. We changed from the original configuration at top to this one in less than 20 minutes.

When we designed the shop you see here, we used the key words shown around the perimeter of the logo, *above*, to guide us. In a nutshell, we wanted to create a full-featured shop in a compact space. We started with a third stall of a 3-car garage, *opposite page top*, a feature found in many newer homes. Then we went to work.

Of course, you may not have this type of garage at your house. That's okay. Wherever you place your shop, we know you'll find a whole world of great ideas in this one that you can easily put to use.

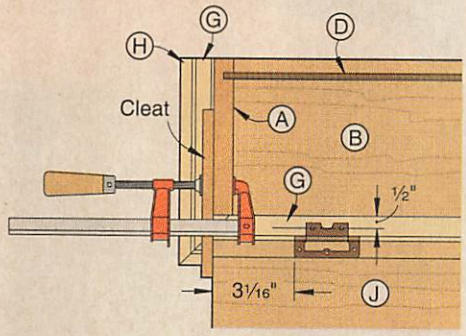
As the floor plan on the *following page* shows, our design incorporates all of the major tools needed for a complete woodworking shop into this 15×22' space. Plus, the shop offers ample storage space, work surfaces that double as bases for benchtop tools, and a serious dust-collection system. Beyond that, almost everything in the shop is mobile.

Let's take a closer look at what makes Idea Shop 5 tick, and at the projects we'll be bringing you in this and upcoming issues. You can check out a list of the tools and supplies we used on *page 8*. See *page 46*, also, to learn how we could help you revamp your workshop. It's an opportunity you won't want to miss.

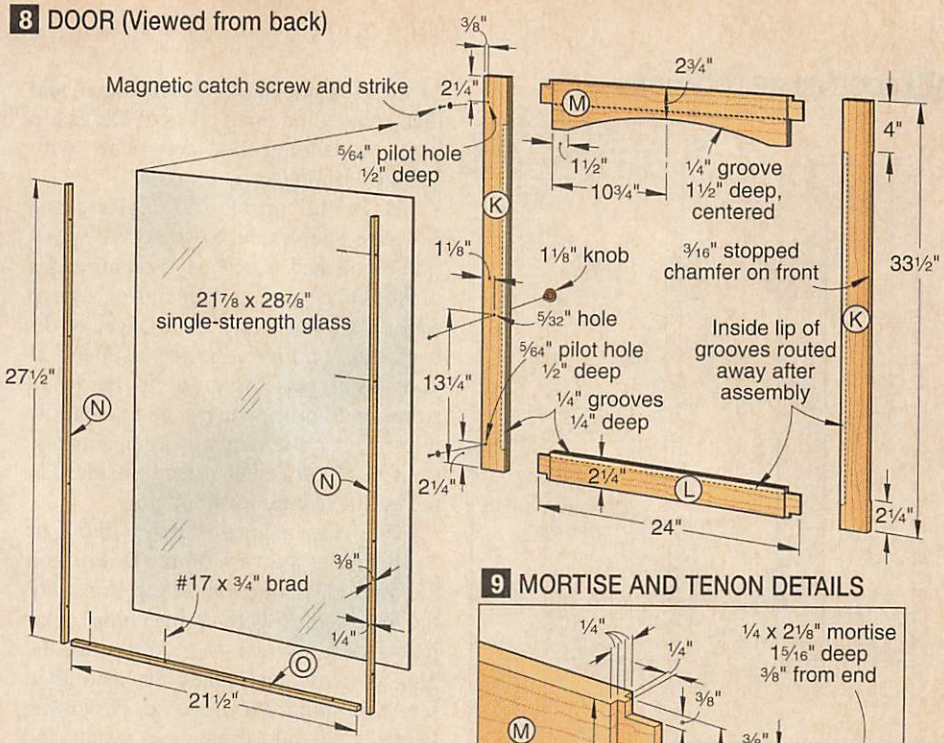
Keep it simple, make it affordable

You may have noticed that all of our shop fixtures share a similar look. Sure, that consistency makes for a great appearance, but the real reason for their resemblance lies in our goal to make them as easy and affordable as possible to build. The workbench bases, flip-top cabinets, and router-table base, for

7 PANEL HINGE LOCATION (Top section view)



8 DOOR (Viewed from back)



Add a hinged panel

1 Cut the drawer panel (J) to size. Then make the two saw kerfs and drill the knob holes, where shown on **Drawing 3**.

2 With their knuckles against the front of the panel (J), position the hinges' large leaves on the bottom edge of the panel, where shown on **Drawing 7**. Drill 5/64" pilot holes, and drive the supplied screws. Then draw lines on the cove molding (G) ½" away from and parallel to the front edge of the bottom (B), where shown. Clamp scrap cleats to the sides (A) to keep the panel's ends flush with the sides. Now, with the panel captured between the cleats, align the holes in the hinges' small leaves with the marked lines on the cove molding (G), drill pilot holes, and drive the screws.

Now build the door

1 Cut the stiles (K), lower rail (L), and upper rail (M) to the sizes listed. With a dado blade, cut the centered ¼" grooves ¼" deep in the stiles and lower rail, where shown on **Drawing 8**. Then raise the blade and cut the 1½"-deep groove in the upper rail.

2 To form the mortises centered in the stiles' grooves, chuck a ¼" brad-point bit in your drill press and drill overlapping holes, where shown on **Drawing 9**. Then clean up the mortises' sides and square the ends with a chisel.

3 With a dado blade in your tablesaw, and an auxiliary extension attached to your miter gauge, cut the tenons shown on **Drawing 9** on the rails (L, M). Form the tenons' faces first, and then turn the rails on edge and cut the haunches. For consistent cuts, clamp a stopblock to the auxiliary extension.

4 Mark the ends and center of the arch on the upper rail (M). Bend a fairing stick to connect the points, and draw the curve. Bandsaw and sand the arch.

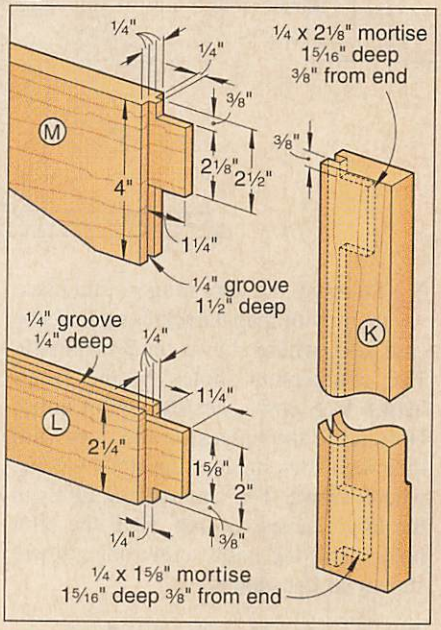
5 Glue and clamp the door, checking for square. With the glue dry, sand the joints smooth.

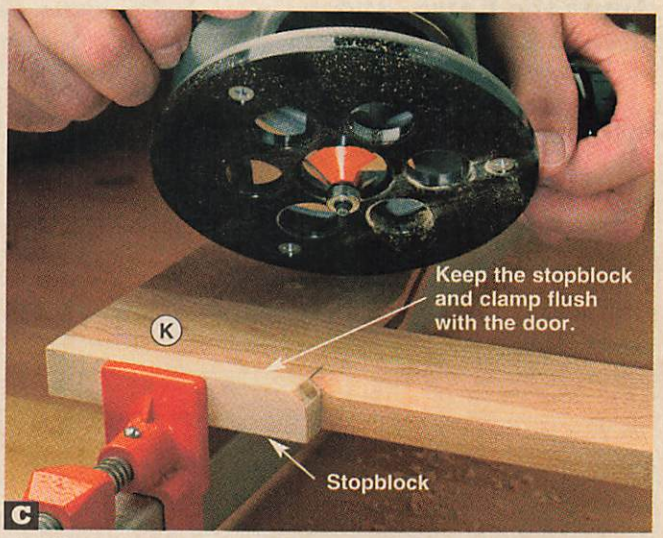
6 Create a rabbet on the door to accept the glass by chucking a ¼" rabbeting bit in your handheld router, and routing away the ¼" groove's inside lip on the stiles (K) and lower rail (L). To avoid routing into the upper rail (M), insert a spacer, as shown in **Photo B**. Avoid chip-out by removing the lip in several shallow passes, or by climb-cutting. Square the rabbet's corners with a chisel.

7 To rout the stopped chamfers on the door's outside face, cut a pair of ½×¾" stopblocks, one 4⅛" long for the top and one 2⅜" long for the bottom. Clamp them to the door's edge, flush at the top and bottom, and rout the chamfers, as shown in **Photo C**. Repeat on the door's other edge.

8 Cut and fit the vertical stops (N) and horizontal stop (O). Cut the head off a #17×¾" brad, and use it to drill pilot holes in the stops, where shown on **Drawing 8**.

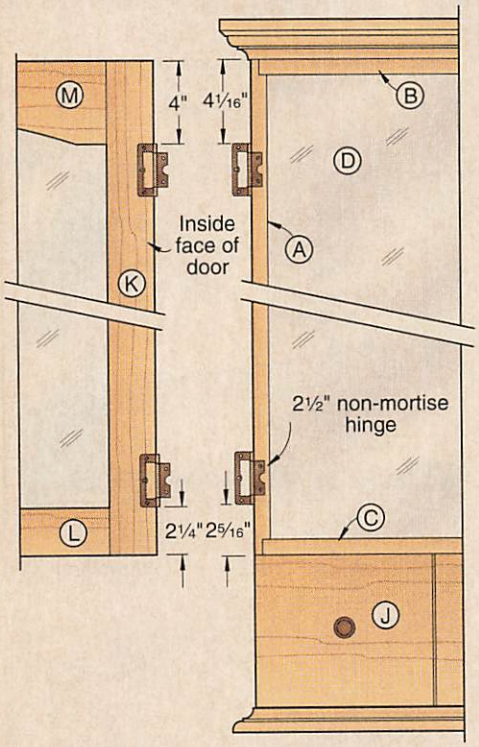
9 MORTISE AND TENON DETAILS





½×¾" stopblocks clamped to the door's edges stop the chamfer bit's pilot bearing, and also prevent chip-out. The 4⅛"-long top stopblock is shown here.

10 DOOR HINGE LOCATIONS



9 To install the door hinges, first place them with their knuckles against the case side, where shown on **Drawing 10**. The countersunk holes in the small leaves face down. Drill the pilot holes. Now place the hinges on the door with their knuckles against the door's edge, where shown. The countersunk holes in the large leaves face up. Drill the pilot holes. Drill the knob screw hole, where shown on **Drawing 8**.

Apply the finish, and install the hardware

1 Remove the drawer panel's hinges, and sand all the parts to 220 grit. Apply the finish. (We applied ZAR no. 118 Dark Mahogany oil-based stain, and then sprayed on three coats of Deft satin lacquer, sanding between coats with 320-grit sandpaper.)

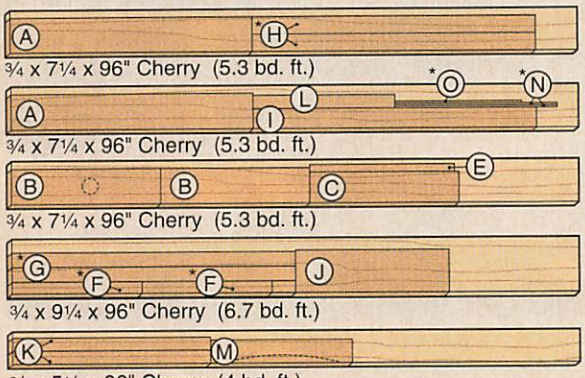
2 Have the mirror, door glass, and glass shelves cut to size. (We specified a polished pencil edge on all edges of the shelves, and had the mirror's sharp edges removed.) Lay the cabinet on its back, apply mirror adhesive (available at your local glass shop or at hardware stores and home centers), and install the mirror. Push the mirror snug against the shelf (C), and center it side-to-side. Let the adhesive cure for 48 hours.

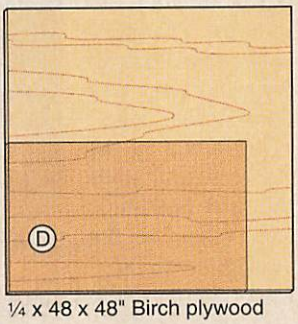
3 Press the magnetic catches into their holes, as shown in **Photo D**. Position the door glass, and nail in the stops. Fill the brad holes with a matching color putty stick. Screw the hinges to the hinged panel and the door, and then screw the hinges to the case. Fasten the knobs. Drill pilot holes and mount the magnetic catch strike plates. (The flathead screws provided did not sit flush with the strikes' surfaces, so we had to deepen their countersinks.)

4 Drill pilot holes, and screw the canister light's mounting ring to the top of the top (B). Slide the canister into the ring so its top is even with the top of the crown, and tighten the clamping screw.

5 Drill countersunk holes through the wall hanging cleat. Making sure it is level, fasten the cleat to the wall, either screwing into wall framing or using hollow wall anchors. Hang the cabinet, interlocking its cleat with the one on the wall, and placing the cord in the top and bottom notches. Install the shelf supports and shelves. Arrange your items, close the door, switch on the light, step back, and admire your collection and your craftsmanship.

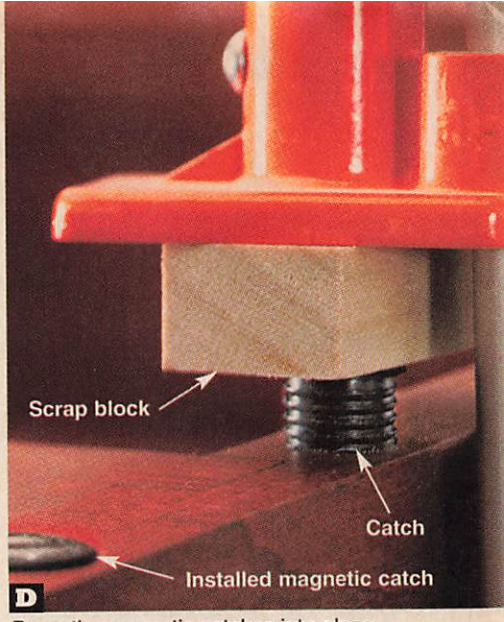
Cutting Diagram





¼ x 48 x 48" Birch plywood

*Plane or resaw to the thicknesses listed in the Materials List.



Press the magnetic catches into place using a clamp. Insert a small block of wood between the catch and the clamp's jaw to protect the catch and the case's finish.

Written by **Jan Svec**
Project design: **Jeff Mertz**
Illustrations: **Roxanne LeMoine**

Materials List

Case	FINISHED SIZE T	W	L	Matl.	Qty.
A sides	¾"	6"	41"	C	2
B top and bottom	¾"	6"	25¼"	C	2
C shelf	¾"	5¼"	25¼"	C	1
D back	¼"	25¼"	40¼"	BP	1
E shelf rail	¾"	1¼"	24½"	C	1
F hanging cleats	½"	2"	21½"	C	2
Molding					
G cove blanks	⅝"	2½"	48"	C	2
H round-over blanks	½"	3"	48"	C	2
I bevel blank	¾"	3⅜"	48"	C	1
Panel and door					
J drawer panel	¾"	7¼"	26"	C	1
K stiles	¾"	2¼"	33½"	C	2
L lower rail	¾"	2¼"	24"	C	1
M upper rail	¾"	4"	24"	C	1
N vertical stops	¼"	⅜"	27½"	C	2
O horizontal stop	¼"	⅜"	21½"	C	1

Materials key: C–cherry, BP–birch plywood.

Supplies: #8×1" and #8×1½" flathead wood screws, #0 biscuits, #17×¾" brads, ⅛×24×30" mirror, 21⅞×28⅞" single-strength glass, ¼×5×24¼" glass shelves (3), mirror adhesive, #8×2" flathead wood screws or hollow wall anchors to fasten the hanging cleat to the wall.

Blades and bits: Stack dado set; ½" cove, ⅜" round-over, ¼" rabbeting, and chamfer router bits.

Buying Guide

Hardware. Statuary bronze 2½" non-mortise hinges no. SYH266 2.5, $0.72 ea. (4); press-in magnetic catches with strikes no. SYMGEMO IS4S, $0.95 ea. (4); 1⅛" pewter-finish brass knobs no. A02370 PWT, $4.51 ea. (4); shelf supports no. G708WPB, $0.22 ea. (12); recessed canister light fixture no. SLMC25 BLK, $8.45. Woodworker's Hardware. Call 800/383-0130, or go to www.wwhardware.com.

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"These are the finest blades I have ever owned and you should be proud of your quality product."
Patrick T. Hankard–South Windsor, CT

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Carl Stude–Burbank, CA

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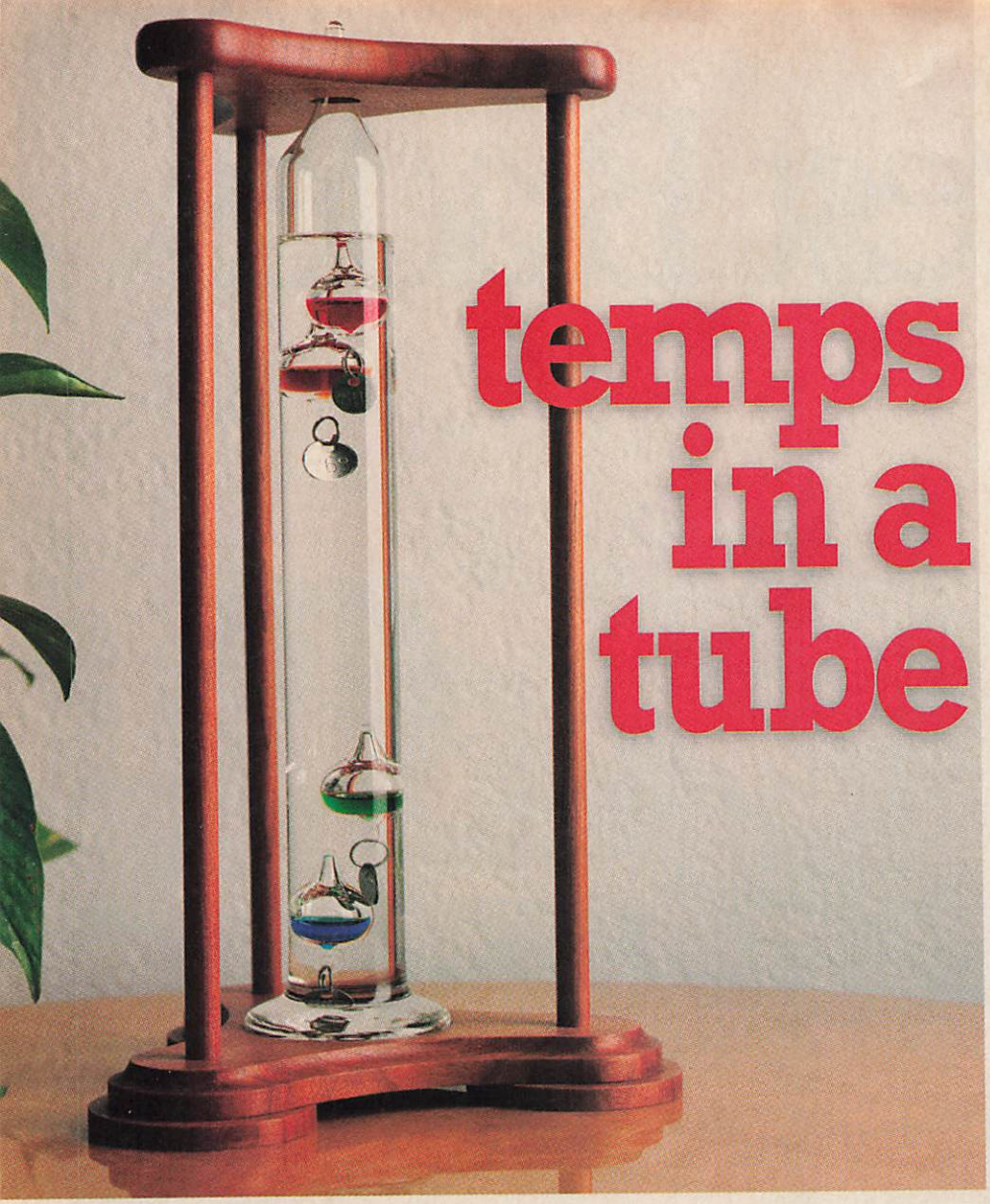


temps in a tube

Build this simple, eye-catching stand for a "Galileo" thermometer, and then watch as others warm up to it with curiosity and pure delight.

Make a beautiful stand

1 From ½"-thick cherry, cut the top and base blanks (A, B) to the sizes listed in the **Materials List**.

2 Copy the top and base patterns on the *WOOD Patterns®* insert, and attach them to the blanks using spray adhesive. Now, drill ⅜" holes in the top and base, where located on the patterns. Using a countersink bit, chamfer the top and bottom edges of the center hole in the top. Bore a 2⅜" hole ¼" deep in the base using a Forstner bit.

3 Scrollsaw or bandsaw the top and base to shape, as shown in **Photo A**. Sand the parts' edges smooth with 220-grit sandpaper.

4 As illustrated on **Drawing 1a**, rout a ¼" partial round-over along the top's edges, where shown on **Drawing 1**. Now, change your router setup to the one shown on **Drawing 1b**, and rout a ¼" partial cove along the base's top edge. Remove the patterns from the pieces. (A cloth moistened with a solvent works well for this.) Sand the parts smooth.

5 From ¼"-thick stock, cut a 3×10" piece for forming the feet (C). Draw three 2½"-diameter circles for the feet on the workpiece spaced about ½" apart. Drill a counterbore centered in each circle, as shown in **Photo B**. Next, drill a 7/64" shank hole centered inside the counterbores. Then, countersink the holes on the workpiece's bottom face. Scrollsaw the feet to shape, and sand their edges smooth.

6 From a ⅜" cherry dowel 36" long, cut three pillars (D) to 11½" long.

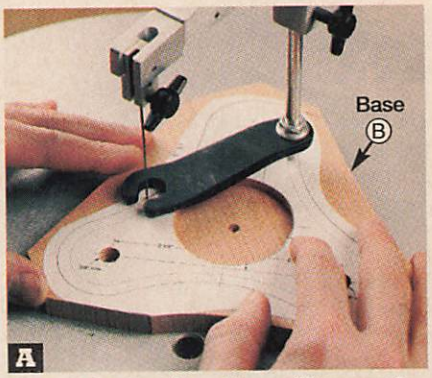
7 Sand the parts smooth. Glue the pillars (D) into the holes in the top (A).

8 To position the feet (C) on the base (B), cut three 1½"-long pieces from a ⅜" dowel. Insert the dowels in the holes in the base so they project ⅛" from the base's bottom. Now, apply glue to the top of the feet. Assemble and clamp the feet to the base with the dowels centered in their counterbores and the feet's grain aligned with the base's grain. Then, remove the dowels.

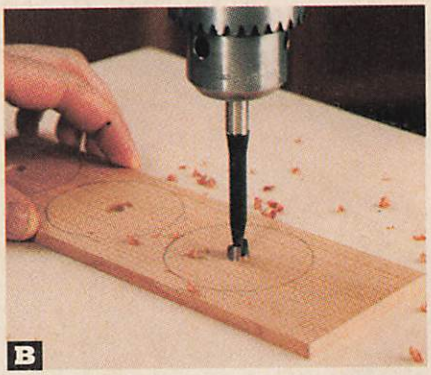
Apply finish, and add the thermometer

1 Stain the parts if you wish. (We used ZAR Oil-Based Stain no. 116 Cherry.) Apply two coats of a protective finish. (We used DEFT Satin Clear Wood Finish.)

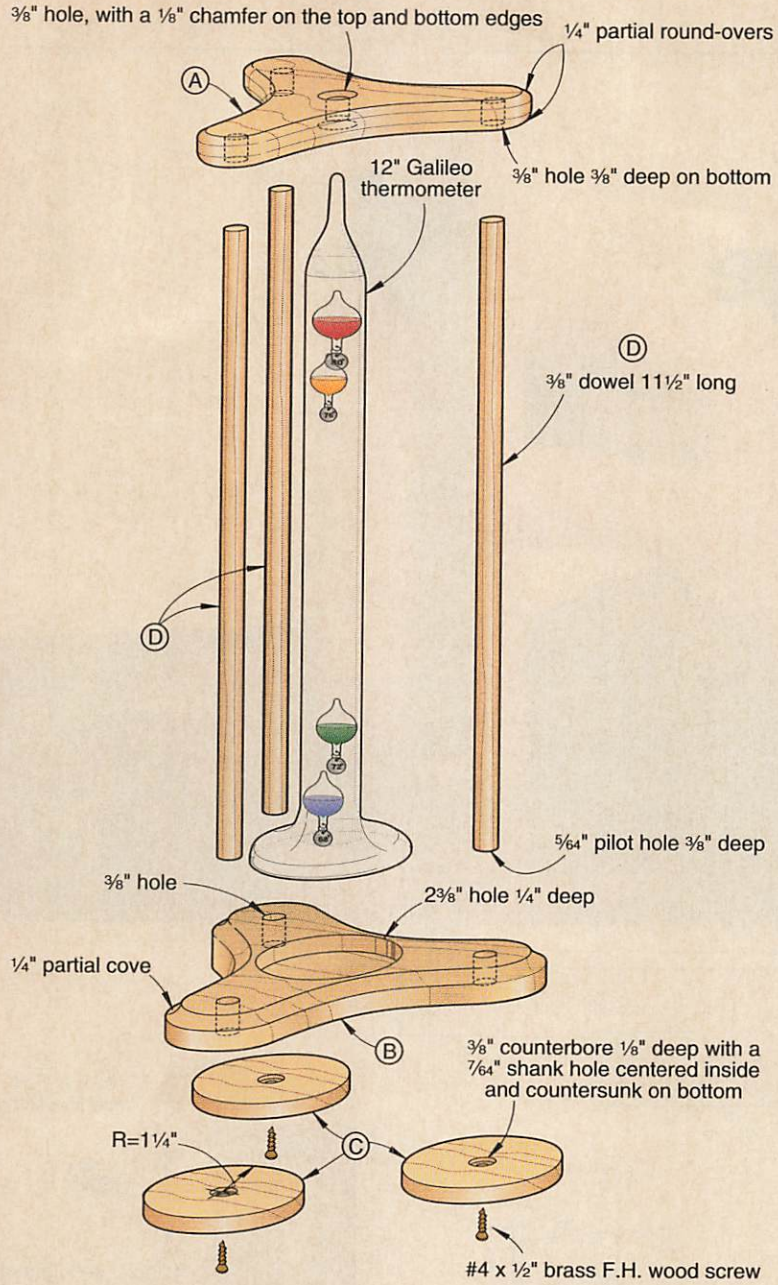
2 Place the thermometer in the base. Align the top's and base's grain. Then, install the top/pillar assembly (A/D) on the base with the thermometer's tip captured in the top's centered hole, seating the pillars fully into the base's holes. Next, place the assembly on its side. Using the shank holes in the feet as guides, drill 5/64" pilot holes in the pillars. Drive the screws. Finally, place this colorful instrument on a table, and watch it go to work.



Cut out the top (A) and base (B) by scrollsawing outside the pattern line, and then sanding to the line.

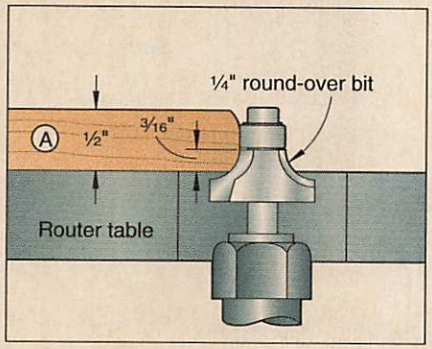


Using a ⅜" Forstner bit, drill a ⅛"-deep counterbore in the center of each foot (C) on the workpiece.

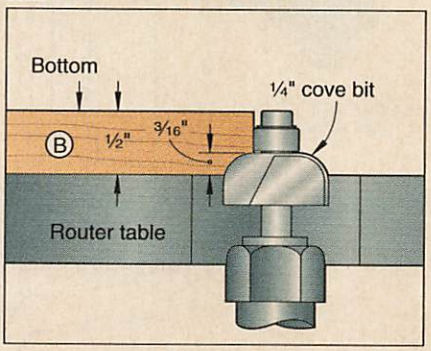


1 EXPLODED VIEW

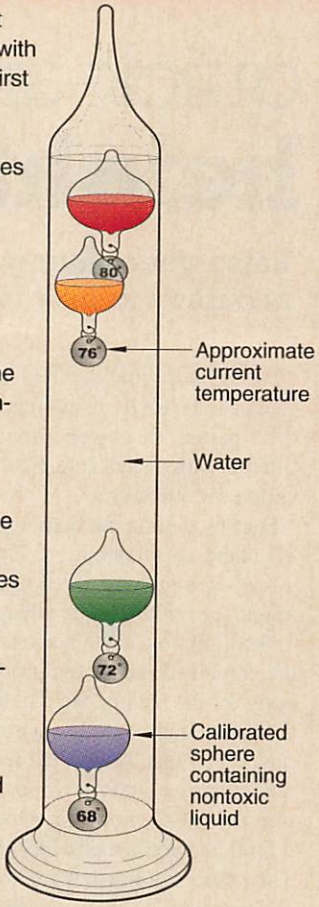
1a 1/4" PARTIAL ROUND-OVER SETUP



1b 1/4" PARTIAL COVE SETUP



How does a Galileo thermometer work?



In 1597, Italian scientist Galileo Galilei showed with his thermoscope—the first temperature-indicating instrument—that the density of liquids changes with temperature. This modern thermometer, named after him, works on the same principle. The cylinder contains water and calibrated, liquid-filled spheres. (The manufacturer of the non-toxic liquid keeps its formula proprietary.) Rising temperature causes the density of the water to decrease, and falling temperature causes it to increase. The spheres' densities are close to the water's density, with each differing in weight by just two-thousandths of a gram. As the temperature (and density) of the water changes, spheres with heavier densities sink, while those with lighter densities float. The lowest floating sphere in the upper part of the tube (the one in "equilibrium" whose density equals that of the water) indicates the approximate current temperature, as shown *above*.

Written by **Owen Duvall**
Project design: **Kevin Boyle**

Materials List

Part	FINISHED SIZE T	W	L	Matl.	Qty.
A top blank	1/2"	6"	6"	C	1
B base blank	1/2"	7"	7"	C	1
C* feet	1/4"	2 1/2" diam.		C	3
D pillars	3/8" diam.		11 1/2"	CD	3

*Parts initially cut oversize. See the instructions.

Materials key: C–cherry, CD–cherry dowel.

Supplies: #4x1/2" brass flathead wood screws (3), spray adhesive.

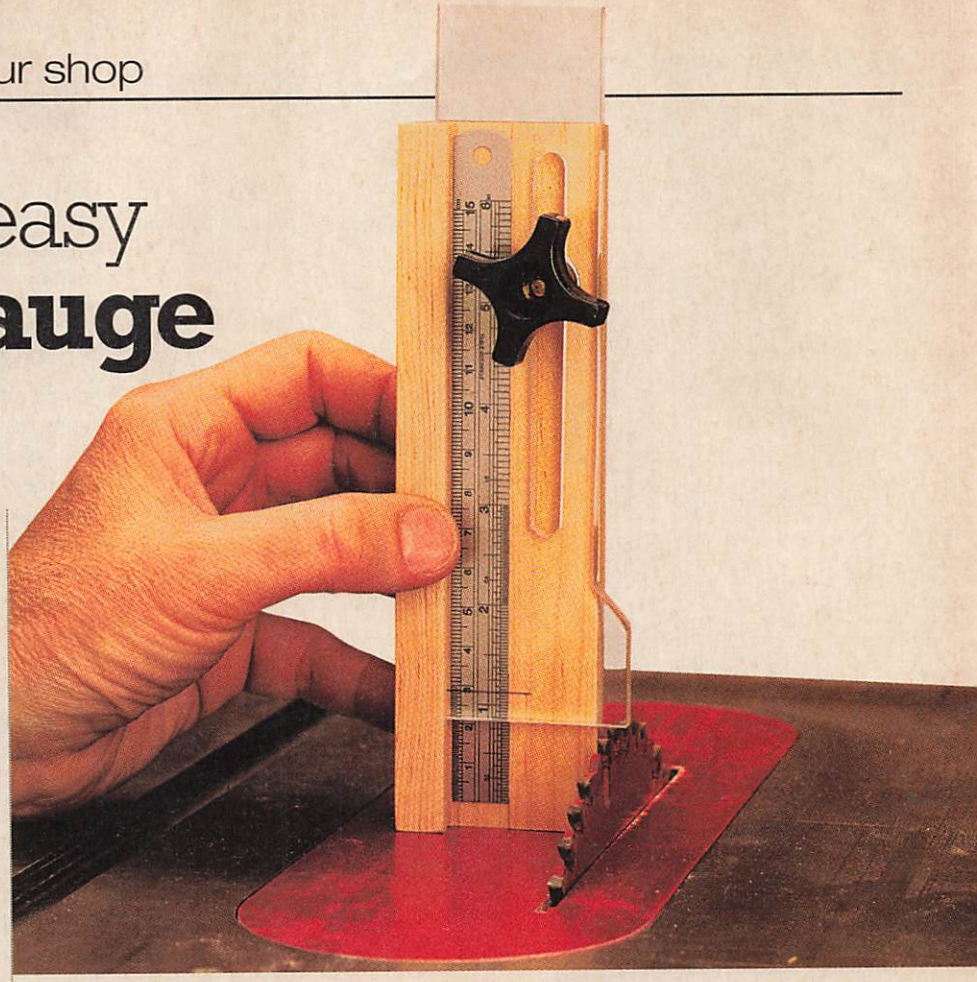
Blades and bits: 3/8" and 2 3/8" Forstner bits, 1/4" round-over and 1/4" cove router bits, countersink bit, no. 7 crown-tooth scrollsaw blade.

Buying Guide

Thermometer: 12" Galileo thermometer, no. 679500, $14. Call Torka, Inc. at 800/286-7665 or go to www.torka.com.

quick-and-easy height gauge

Raise your cutting accuracy to new levels.



Set the cutting depth of tablesaw blades easily using this adjustable gauge. To ensure accuracy, we outfitted it with a steel rule. See the Buying Guide for our source.

Start by cutting the body to size from ¾" maple, as shown in the drawing. Plow a 13/32"-deep groove, sized to fit your rule, in one face of the body, where shown.

Next, set your dado blade to ¼", and cut the combined rabbet and groove in the body for the sliding bar. To do this, place the gauge body on edge, with the ungrooved face against the fence. Cut the rabbet/groove in three passes, with the last one at 1⅝", as shown on the drawing.

Drill and countersink the screw hole. Then sand and finish the body.

Use a coping saw or scrollsaw to shape the ¼" acrylic sliding bar to the dimensions shown. Create the adjustment slot by drilling a pair of 5/16" holes, where shown, and cutting out the material between them. Smooth the edges of the slot and the outer edges of the bar using a fine file. Buff the outer edges if you want to make them super smooth. Now, scribe a cursor line on the back face, where shown, using the method described in **Photo A**, *page 81*.

Attach the steel rule in the groove using double-faced tape. Place the bottom end of the rule ¼" from the bottom of the body. Then install the sliding bar.

To use the gauge, set the cursor line to the desired height. Hold the sliding bar in its groove while adjusting the gauge to keep the bar square with the base. Place the body on the tablesaw top beside the blade, as shown in the photo, and raise the blade to set the height.

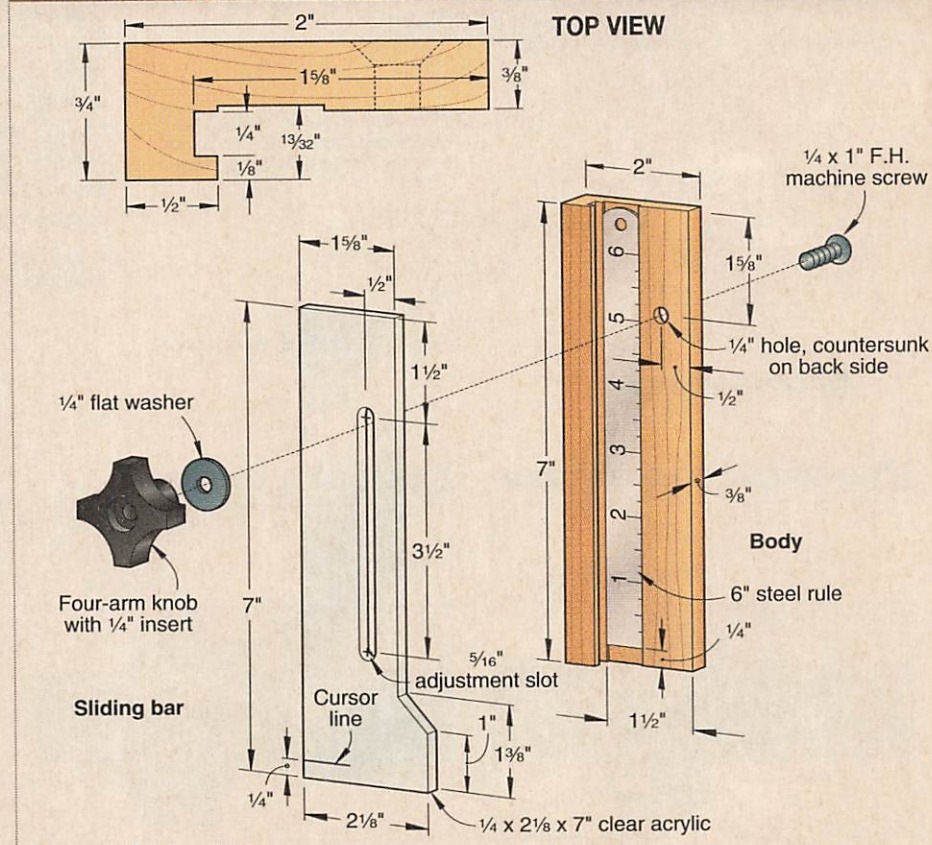


Illustration: **Roxanne LeMoine**

Buying Guide

Hardware. Stainless steel rule no. 06K20.06, $1.40 each; 1½" four-arm plastic knob (¼-20 threads) no. 00M55.30, $1.30 each. Call Lee Valley at 800/871-8158, or go to www.leevalley.com.

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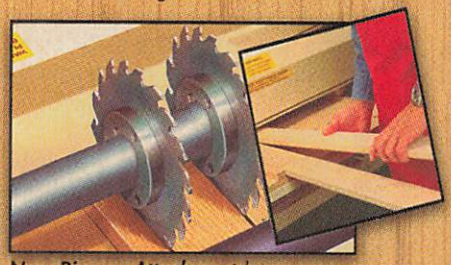

New Ripsaw Attachment *lets you gang rip with power feed in a fraction of the time it takes for hand-fed passes on an ordinary table saw.*

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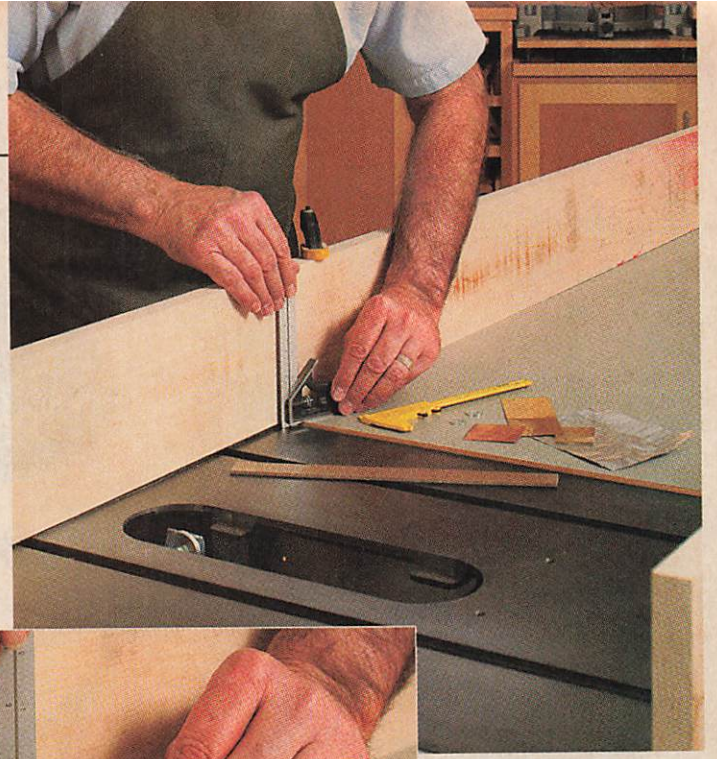
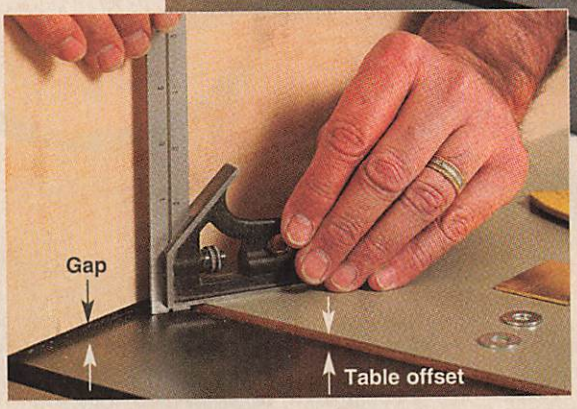
how to level tables to tools

It's easy to do, and essential for the safe and effective operation of workshop machinery.





Use an adjustable square or calipers to measure the tables' offset and gaps under the straightedges.

Whether you're building the dual-function workstation presented in the article on *page 62* or making your own base for a tool, such as a tablesaw, mitersaw, or thickness planer, you need to level the tables to the tool (bring them to the same plane). Coplanar tables provide a continuously even worksurface necessary for stable stock support, accurate cutting, and safe workpiece movement. *Below*, you'll learn how to level tables in four simple steps.

You also can use this process to check and level accessories, such as infeed and outfeed support tables, to your tools. Because accessories have various types of leveling provisions, refer to the manufacturer's instructions on how to adjust them.

STEP 1

Find two straightedges of sufficient length to span the tool and extension tables. You can use metal straightedges, or make wooden ones by jointing the edges of two boards. For example, to reach across the 51"-long router-cabinet top of the dual-function workstation and the 20"-wide cast-iron tablesaw top, we made straightedges by jointing two 1×6×72" boards.

Clamp the straightedges along the front and back of the extension table or top, as shown in the photo, *top*. (When leveling an accessory table to a tool, clamp the straightedges to the tool's table.)

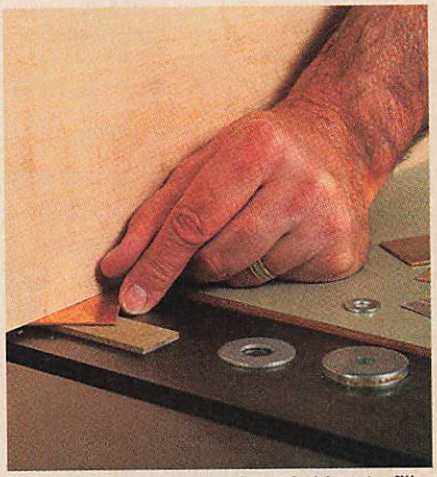
STEP 2

Determine the approximate shim thicknesses needed for leveling by measuring the offset between the tool's table and extension near the straightedges, as shown in the inset photo, *above*. Then, measure the gaps between the straightedges and the tool table at the table's opposite edge.

STEP 3

Insert shims to get a snug fit between the tool's table and straightedges, as shown in the photo, *right*. Suitable shims include metal flat washers; ⅛" and ¼" hardboard; sheet metal (available at hobby stores and home centers); and metal shim stock, such as from an automotive feeler gauge. When you need just a smidgen more thickness for a perfect fit, add a piece or two of aluminum foil (it measures just .002" thick) to the stack.

As an alternative to combining shims, you can make custom shims by planing hardwood, such as oak or maple, to the exact thicknesses needed. Don't use any material that will compress at all under the weight of the machine.



Find the right combination of shims to fill the gaps between the tool's table and straightedges at the locations over the mounting holes in the tool's base.

STEP 4

Finally, remove the shims, drill holes in them if necessary for your tool's mounting screws, and install the shims under the tool. Also, recheck the level periodically as tool movement, knocks, and changes in humidity can cause table misalignment.

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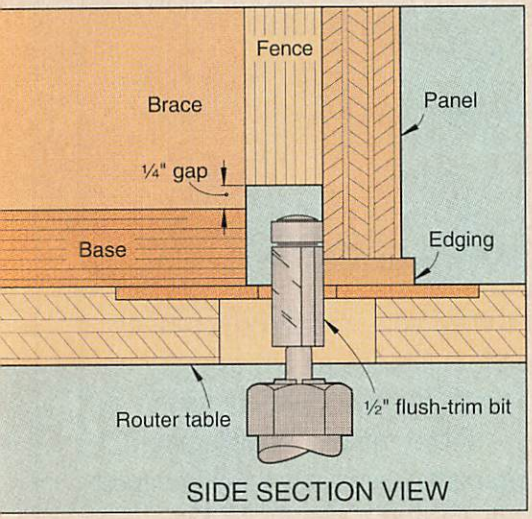
A quick guide to must-know terms
used throughout *WOOD*® magazine

All-thread: Steel rod (sometimes called drill rod) that has been threaded along its entire length. (Picture a long bolt without its head.) The material comes in a variety of diameters and threads per inch (tpi), and usually measures 36" long. You hacksaw it to any desired length to create everything from custom bolts to adjustment mechanisms for jigs.

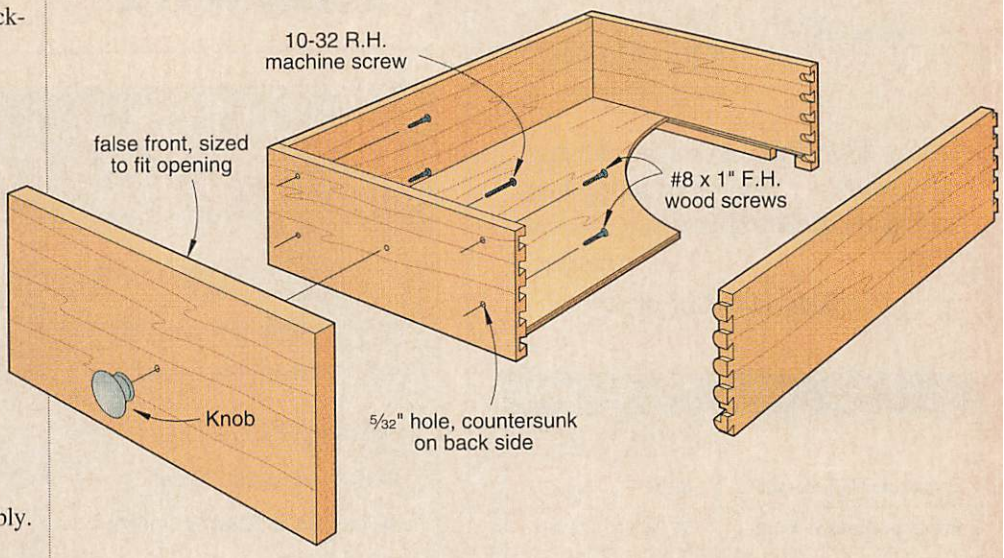
Contact adhesive: A thin, rubber-based adhesive, used most often for bonding plastic laminate to substrates. You apply the adhesive to both mating surfaces, then allow it to dry until tacky. When joined, the surfaces bond on contact.

Dry-fit: Temporarily assembling a project without glue or permanent fasteners. Use this technique to check the accuracy and fit of joinery, and to determine the sequence for final assembly.

Edging: A solid wood strip, usually ¼" thick or greater, applied to a sheet product, such as plywood, to hide the bare edge. Generally, edging is applied oversize, and flush-trimmed to matching thickness, as shown, *below*.

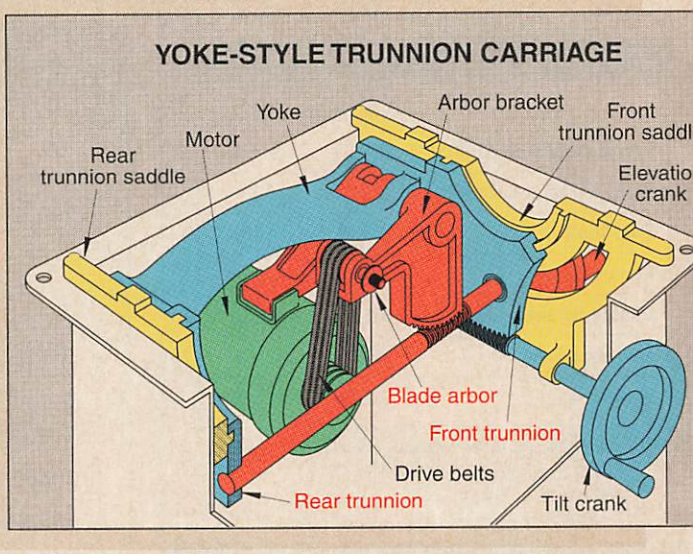


False front: A non-structural face applied to a drawer assembly to provide the drawer's finished visible surface. A false front often is larger than the drawer-box front. Because it is separate from the drawer box, you can adjust the false front, upon assembly, to get the best fit in the drawer opening without repositioning the slides or other drawer hardware.



Arbor: In a tablesaw, the threaded shaft on which the saw blade mounts and is held in place with a nut, as shown *below*. Riding on bearings, the arbor gets rotated by the drive belts to spin the blade. Most saws with 10" blades have a ⅝"-diameter arbor.

Trunnions: In a tablesaw, the assembly (usually cast-iron) that supports the drive mechanism and controls the blade tilt and elevation. On a cabinet-style saw, shown at *right*, the trunnions usually mount to the trunnion saddle which, in turn, mounts to the saw's cabinet. On a contractor's saw, they mount to the underside of the table.



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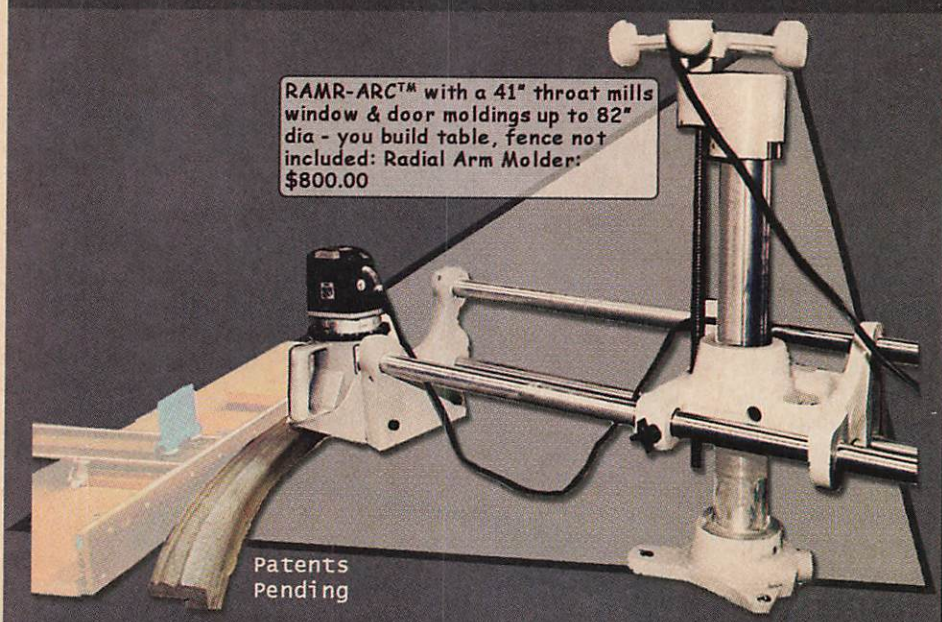

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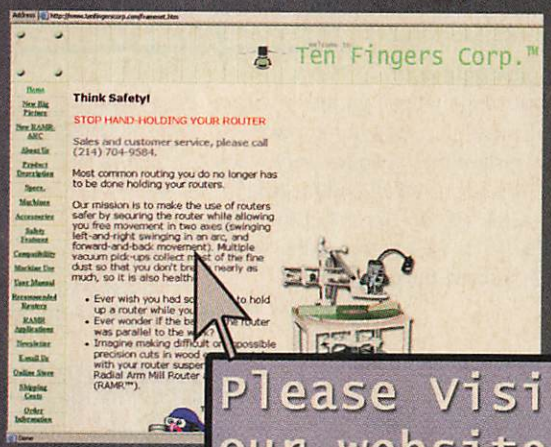

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Take the winter chill off with a Hot Dawg

Over the years, I've tried all manner of portable heaters to warm my garage workshop. But none of them worked well enough to provide even heat throughout the shop. Last fall, I installed a Hot Dawg HD45 45,000-Btu, gas-fired heater from Modine, and the world has been a much cozier place ever since.

Wired to an inexpensive thermostat, the Hot Dawg maintains a constant temperature all winter long. I set mine at 50°, then bump it up to 68° when I go into the shop to work on a project. Within about five minutes, I have shirtsleeve weather.

At only 12" tall, and requiring only 1" minimum clearance above the unit, the compact Hot Dawg HD45—designed for a 2- to 2½-car garage—tucks in nicely against the ceiling without interfering with garage-door operation. Modine's larger Hot Dawgs (the 60,000- and 75,000-Btu models) are only 18" tall.

Every Hot Dawg heater offers flexibility regarding installation. By merely flipping the unit over, you can put the gas, electric, and flue connections on the left or right. The powered exhaust directs either up through the roof or out through a sidewall. And, you can order your heater to run on either natural gas or propane.

One thing I really like about my Hot Dawg is that it doesn't have a pilot light constantly burning that can ignite solvent fumes. Instead, it uses a hot-surface ignition system that operates only when needed. It's not a sealed combustion chamber, though, so I just shut the unit off at the thermostat before using solvents or solvent-based finishes.

—Tested by Dave Campbell

Hot Dawg garage heater

Performance	★★★★★
Price	HD30 (30,000 Btu), $720; HD45 (45,000 Btu), $755; HD60 (60,000 Btu), $790; HD75 (75,000 Btu), $825

Modine Manufacturing
800/828-4328, www.modine.com

Quick-change holesaw cuts pretty fast, too

A drill-mounted holesaw works great for boring "in-between" size holes in projects—those too big for most Forstner bits, but too small to jig up a router and trammel, such as the wire-routing holes in an entertainment center. They also come in handy for cutting toy wheels. If you've used a holesaw only once in your life, though, you've no doubt struggled with removing the plug from the saw after making the cut.

The quick-release action of Bosch's Power Change holesaw system eases plug removal significantly. Each cutter mounts to the mandrel like a pneumatic nailer to an air hose, locking in place with a spring-loaded collar. To unplug the cutter, I just popped it off the mandrel and remounted it slightly askew; the pilot bit pushed out even the most stubborn plugs. As with any holesaw, that cutter gets pretty hot after a heavy cut, so I had to let it cool or handle it with a rag in some cases.

A quick-change feature means little if the tool doesn't cut worth a hoot. But I found the Power Change more aggressive than other holesaws I've used. Whether cutting into wood, sheet metal, or plate steel, I could really feel the teeth bite into the material at first contact. Progressively deeper gullets around the rim remove big chips fast. When cutting metal, Power Change produced curled metal shavings, compared to the small scrapings left behind by a typical holesaw.

The 12-piece Master Set I tested comes with cutter diameters ranging from ¾" to 3". Optional cutters go from 9/16" to 6".

—Tested by Jeff Hall

Bosch Power Change holesaw

Performance	★★★★★
Price	12-pc. Master Set (PC11PCM), $100

Bosch
877/267-2499, www.boschtools.com

Continued on page 104

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Grip-Tite improves on an already great product

Way back in 1991, *WOOD*® magazine first raved about Grip-Tite magnetic feather boards. The simple concept of springy polycarbonate hold-down blades on a super-strong magnetic base proved as safe and effective as it was easy to use. Well, they've come a long way, baby, to arrive at the Grip-Tite 2000 System.

Like the original, the Grip-Tite 2000 still has the polycarbonate spring blades to press stock down on the table and against the fence. And it still sticks like crazy to steel and iron—I measured 40 lbs. of sideways force and 60 lbs. of lifting force to break the base loose from my cast-iron tablesaw top. A cam lever on the base makes it easy to pry it away when you need to.

The newest additions to the system, though, are Rollerguides. With a Grip-Tite mounted to a steel fence as shown in the photo, these small abrasive-covered drums actually pull your workpiece toward the fence. I purposely set a board about ⅛" away from the fence and started feeding. The Rollerguide on the infeed Grip-Tite snugged that board up to the fence before it got to the tablesaw blade.

You want to talk safety? Halfway through an 8'-long cut in ¾" oak, I let go of the board, walked to the back of the saw, and *pulled* it the rest of the way through. I wouldn't try this with any other feather board, but the Grip-Tites held the workpiece so firmly against the fence and tabletop that I didn't even burn the cut edge. And, my fingers never got near the blade. (For short workpieces, you complete the cut by feeding it through with the next workpiece or a scrap of the same thickness.)

Most tablesaws don't have steel fences, so a screw-on steel auxiliary fence face comes with the Grip-Tite 2000 System. That kit also includes two magnetic feather boards equipped with Rollerguides, and a great how-to video.

Here's more good news: If you bought into the Grip-Tite system way back when, Rollerguides that retrofit the old solid-oak Grip-Tites sell for only $15 each (plus $1 shipping).

—Tested by Garry Smith

Grip-Tite 2000

Performance ★★★★★

Price **System, $150 ppd.; feather board alone without Rollerguides, $47 (ppd.); Rollerguides, $16 each (ppd.)**

Mesa Vista Design
800/475-0293, www.grip-tite.com

Continued on page 106

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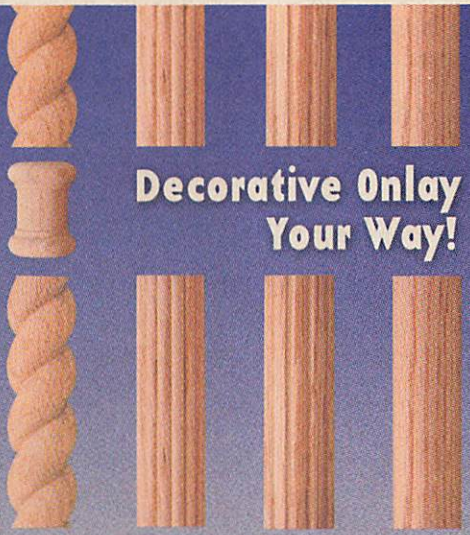

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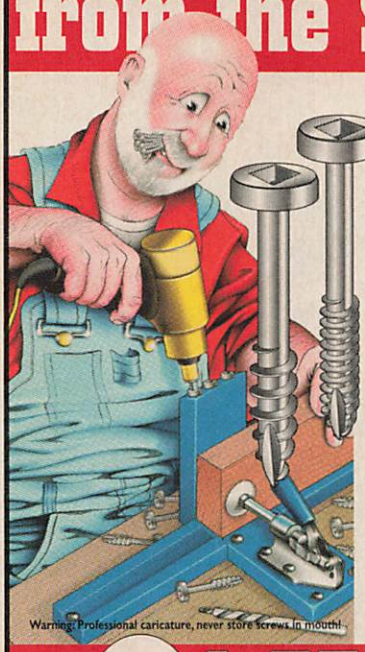

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MS-UV takes your saw off the beaten path

When it comes to built-in projects, you can spend a lot of time dragging workpieces back and forth from the shop to the house fine-cutting pieces to fit. Think how much faster the assembly would go if your tools were in the same room as the project! Although I've still not figured out a way to conveniently move my tablesaw, Ridgid's Mitersaw Utility Vehicle (MS-UV) does the trick for my mitersaw.

After mounting my 10" mitersaw to the MS-UV, I gave it the ultimate mobility test: hauling it up to the second floor of my house, where I was trimming out a room. The hand-truck-like design and big 12" rubber wheels negotiated those stairs with ease. When I pulled the mitersaw around to the backyard to finish up some railing on my deck, the MS-UV proved well balanced, without any of the top-heaviness I've experienced with upright mitersaw stands.

Once on-site, the MS-UV goes from folded to fully functional in just seconds with the help of a gas-filled strut raising one end of the stand while you lift the other. The roller-style work supports extend to as much as 4' on both sides of the stand, which is rated to hold 200 lbs. of tool and materials. I like that the work supports don't have to be removed from the stand to stow it. In fact, they don't even need to be reset to saw level at each setup. I just set them and forgot them.

The MS-UV stores with the saw still mounted. Lying flat, it can tuck under a bench or a pickup tonneau cover; stand it on end, as shown in the inset photo, and you reduce the amount of floor space it takes up by about half.

—Tested by Larry Christensen

Ridgid MS-UV (AC9940) Mitersaw Utility Vehicle

Performance	★★★★★
Price	$200

Emerson Tool Company
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Continued on page 108

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- **Bulb has 10,000 hour life.**

How often have you sat down to read and found yourself asleep in no time? Now it is possible to bring the advantages of the outdoor light indoors. When you think about it, there hasn't been a significant innovation in lighting since Thomas Edison invented the first light bulb. By the twenty-first century, shouldn't there be better light? There is. Now, a breakthrough technology using rare earth phosphors is available that will change the way you read, work, do your hobbies and even the way you see yourself. These rare earth phosphor lamps replicate the full light spectrum where an incandescent bulb's light is concentrated on the orange-red part of the spectrum creating a dim yellowish light. The light from fluorescent bulbs is concentrated on the yellow green portion of the spectrum giving a room an ugly greenish color.

Pure white light. The UltraLux® innovative difference is Full Spectrum lighting, using all of the visible colors in sunlight. Full Spectrum light is made up of pure white light with an amazing color rendering index of 91 producing more contrast and a sharper view. Complex hobbies and small type becomes easier to see and color matching is much more exact. The long neck of the floor lamp is flexible allowing you to point the light where it is most needed.

This lamp is different than other natural sunlight replication lamps on the market. The UltraLux® is the only lamp with 55 watts and a lux rating of 10,000. This is about three times brighter than any other sunlight replicating lamp on the market. The UltraLux® Task Lamp is also the only Full Spectrum light that is dimmable.

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When a router bit gets dull, your options are pretty limited: sharpen it, or toss it and buy a new one. In either case, if you're in the middle of a machining operation, you'll have to remove the bit and probably re-create the setup for that cut. Wouldn't it be great if you could just wave a wand and have a new cutter appear on the bit?

Amana's ½"-shank Nova System makes it almost that easy. Instead of carbide cutters brazed onto the bit body, Nova's "knives" attach to the bit body by means of a knife retainer (in fingers in the photo). Notches in the knives index them to the body to ensure perfect alignment.

Amana offers two different bit-body styles in the Nova System, and I tested both. The "A" body (shown in the photo) has a ball-bearing guide (not shown) on the end of the shank and is designed for edge-routing profiles; the bearingless "B" body is used for plunge profiles, such as V-grooves and flutes.

The wide-open bodies create little hindrance for chips, making these bits aggressive. In fact, I tried climb-cutting (routing *with* the bit rotation, rather than against it) with the ⅜" round-over knives, and felt them really pull me when performing this task. Climb-cutting can be dicey with conventional bits, too, but I felt even less comfortable doing it with these bits.

Changing knives takes about as long as changing a conventional router bit, but I didn't need to remove the bit body from the router. And, because the knives themselves are flat, they lie flat on a sharpening stone for quick touch-ups.

A Nova bit weighs about twice as much as the same profile of a standard router bit, which contributed to a slight vibration when I used the system with my 1½-hp router. The vibration didn't affect the quality of the cut, but it did tickle my hands.

Whether you opt for the A or B body, you also get three profiles of knives with the Nova System. Amana offers a total of 23 edge profiles and five plunge profiles, with each pair of knives selling for about $22. Up front, the cost of the set is about equal to buying those three bits—the cost savings come when it's replacement time.

—Tested by Jeff Hall

Continued on page 110

Get in the zone with the mattress topper that molds to your body's contours

The Memory Foam Ultra mattress topper is cut into a grid pattern combining six different zones for variable support and a better night's sleep.

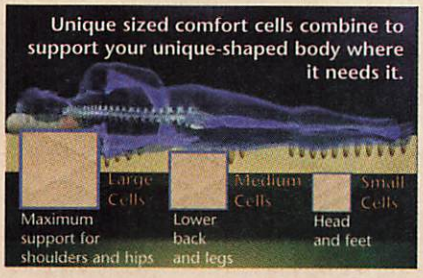
The 2-inch thick temperature-smart foam adjusts to your shape.

It's 3 a.m. You have exactly two hours until you have to get up for work, and you still can't seem to fall asleep. At this point, the phrase "tossing and turning" begins to take on a whole new meaning for people whose mattresses simply aren't giving proper support anymore. Your mattress may dictate your quality of sleep. Even if you merely suspect that your mattress may be outdated, that's when you need to take action. Some mattresses fail to support your spine properly, which can result in increased pressure on certain parts of your body. Other mattresses, sporting certain degrees of visco-elastic foam, can sometimes cost you well over $1000. Now, one of the world's leading manufacturers of foam products has developed an incredibly affordable mattress topper that can actually change the way you sleep. Introducing the future of a better night's sleep: The Memory Foam Ultra Mattress Topper.

Wake up to a better morning. The Memory Foam Ultra mattress topper is designed to give you a better sleep surface. Not only does it support each region of your body, but it's also temperature sensitive. With its various-sized "comfort cells," the 2-inch thick Memory Foam Ultra mattress topper combines six zones to support specific body area weight, which promotes a better night's sleep. The largest cells support your lower back and midsection, while the medium-sized cells support the shoulders, lower back and legs. The smallest cells support your head and feet. Combined, these zones provide variable support from head to toe. By using visco-elastic foam, the Memory Foam Ultra mattress topper also molds to your body contours to help prevent tossing and turning during the night. When you lie down on this amazing material, the heat and pressure sensitive foam reacts to your body's weight and temperature, so that it molds to your exact body shape. This means that whether you sleep on your back, stomach or side, your weight is evenly distributed and your spine remains in a neutral position. Other surfaces support your body at the shoulders, hips and legs only. This causes your spine to sag in other areas, which can often result in discomfort, and even back pain. You'll wake up rested, relaxed and ready to take on the day. Anyone who suffers from insomnia and back pain can benefit from this technology.

What could be wrong with your present bed?

The ideal position is a neutral body posture in which the different parts of the human body are supported individually and evenly. This is the secret behind Memory Foam Ultra, the mattress topper that turns any bed into the ideal sleep surface.



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I'll admit I don't often lay the blade of my mitersaw over to make a bevel cut, but when I do, reaching around the back of the saw to loosen the bevel lock is a tremendous pain in the… um, backside. Delta's MS350 10" compound mitersaw prevents that pain by moving its bevel lock right up front.

Now, both the bevel- and miter-locking mechanisms share that big twist-to-lock handle that sticks out the front of the turntable. With the handle pushed in, as shown in the photo, it operates the bevel lock; when pulled straight out, it operates the miter lock. This system works well, but seems backward to me. (I use that handle to rotate the turntable, and so I ended up accidentally pushing it back in most of the time.)

When I first powered up the saw, I was surprised at how quiet its 15-amp motor is, and wondered if it had enough ponies for the tough cuts. Nonetheless, it sliced quickly and cleanly through 4×4 treated lumber time and again. In ¾" stock, the MS350 crosscut 5⁷⁄₁₆"—a capacity about in the middle of the pack for today's 10" compound mitersaws.

The MS350's bevel and miter scales are a mixed bag, however. The bevel scale itself has widely spaced hairline markings, but the cursor is so thick, it's hard to tell when you're exactly on your mark. And, although the miter scale is graduated in clean ½° increments, its cursor doesn't overlay the markings, which would make it easier to read.

—Tested by Larry Christensen

About our product tests

We test hundreds of tools and accessories, but only those that earn at least three stars for performance make the final cut and appear in this section. Our testers this issue include: *WOOD®* magazine products editor **Dave Campbell**, computer network technician **Larry Christensen**, high-school woodworking teacher **Jeff Hall**, and machinist **Garry Smith**. All are avid woodworkers.

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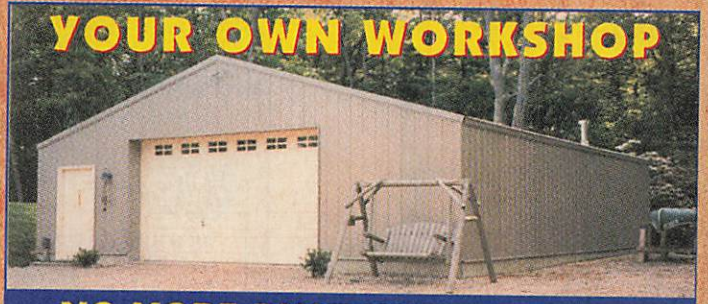

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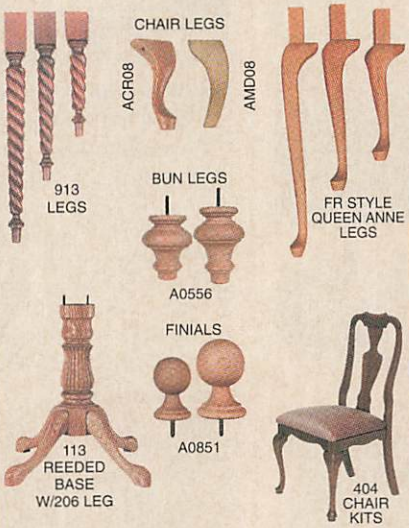

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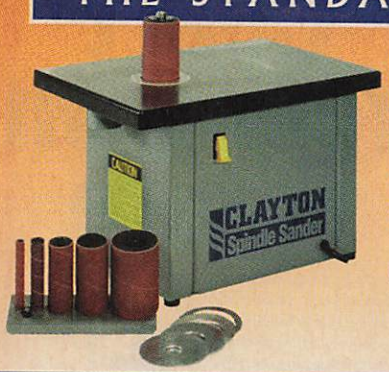

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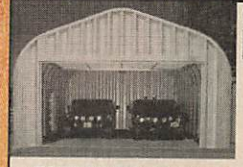

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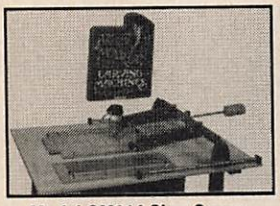
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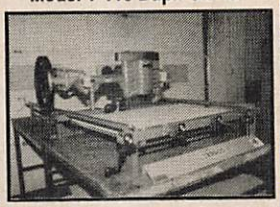
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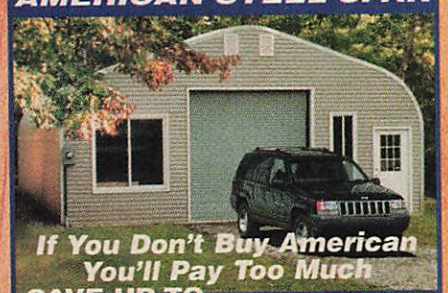

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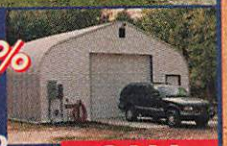

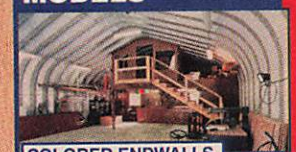

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Workshop Solutions

From the Editors of WOOD® magazine

Build a better shop with one or more of the **34 great project** plans found here. And while you're at it, check out the **shop tips** found in every section aimed to beef up your woodworking skills and guarantee your success. Just look at what's inside:

- **Workbenches, Large and Small**
- **Tables, Stands, and Bases**
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- **Quick-and-Easy Organizers**
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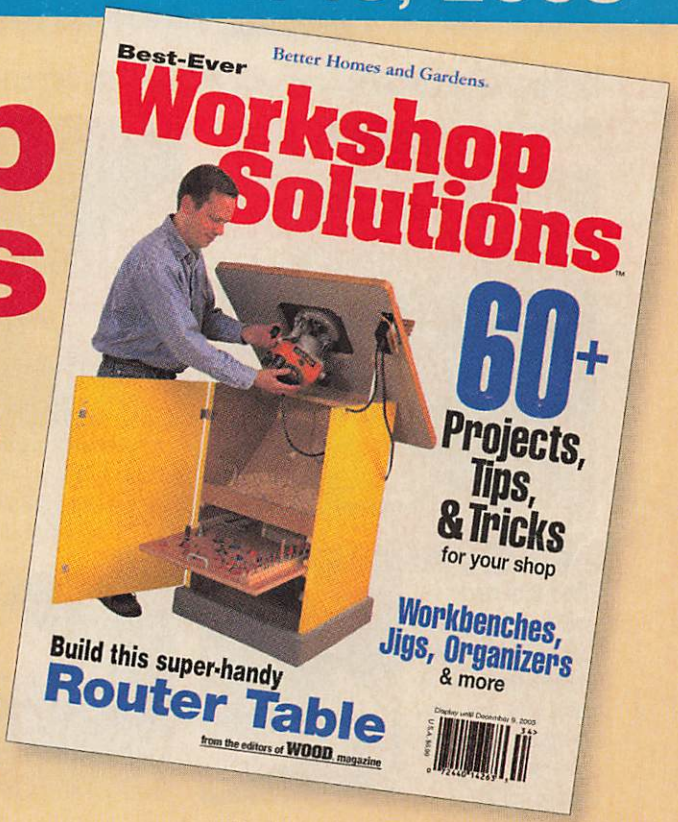

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what's ahead

A sneak peek at the November 2003 issue of *WOOD*® magazine **on sale October 14**

Projects for your home and shop

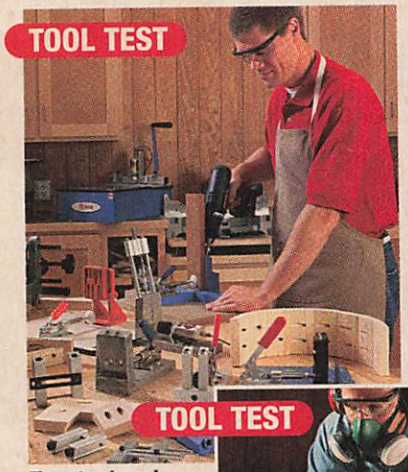
FEATURED PROJECT

Classic round oak dining table
This 48"-diameter beauty proves that a table can be as delectable as the food served upon it. Features include easy-to-make kerf-bent aprons and a top that expands to 72" long with the addition of two leaves.

More workshop wonders
Our coverage of Idea Shop 5 continues with detailed plans for building the mobile drawer cabinet, sanding center, and wall system. See *page 47* for more on each of these projects.

Shining showcase
Display your prized collectibles in this handsome, lighted unit. It requires only a moderate investment in time and materials.

More tools and techniques than you can shake a 2x4 at



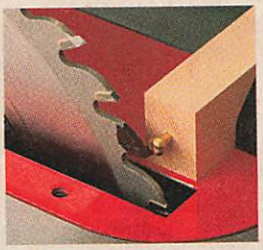
TOOL TEST

Two tool reviews
Who makes the top pocket-hole jig? Which random-orbit sanding discs work best? After extensive testing, we know the answers, and so will you.

TOOL TEST

Lathe-tool sharpening demystified
Want to effortlessly shape wood on your lathe? Here's how three top pros sharpen six of the most-used turning tools for catch-free cutting.

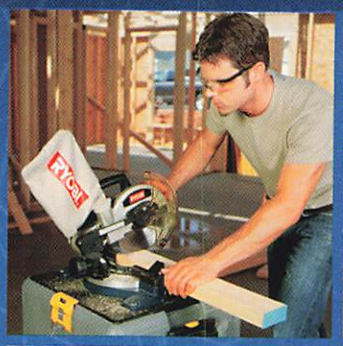
A super-smooth finish for oak tabletops
Pick the right products and apply them correctly for an oak surface that you can't resist running your fingers across.



Tune your tablesaw to perfection
Learn how to adjust and maintain your tablesaw for smooth, safe operation and hair-splitting accuracy.

13 shop-proven tricks for cutting plywood
Tired of low-quality cuts in high-priced plywood? Achieve flawless results with these tips from the *WOOD* magazine workshop.

OUR NEW CORDLESS SIX PACK IS GOOD FOR THREE THINGS:



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